

University Faculty Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 1:45 PM  
Hybrid Meeting - via zoom and in person  
Center for Anti-Racism, Room 140 Mazur Hall

**Attendance:** Forty-four (44) representative senators, faculty, librarians, administrators and guests in virtual and in-person attendance

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to order: President Shohreh Amini at 2:12pm
2. Approval of UFS minutes from April 18, 2023
3. President's Report: Shohreh Amini
  - a. Presidential search and transparency
    - i. Early November report delivered on collective genius
    - ii. Faculty feedback included in the report
    - iii. Position specific items reviewed
    - iv. Have not seen the applicants yet – it has been posted again to the university website
    - v. Spencer Stuart (search committee) is actively in the market organizing a candidate pool
    - vi. Search advisory committee will meet later this month
    - vii. Expectations are to identify a new president during the spring semester
  - b. Public meetings for the Board of Trustees (BOT); very difficult to access public meetings and connect
    - i. Shohreh has been able to meet with them recently; feels good about it and ideally has found a path forward
    - ii. Some members of the BOT are still resisting on faculty involvement, but we are making progress
  - c. Next week is the next BOT meeting – not sure who will be let in as part of this discussion; FSSC observer has been invited
4. Vice President's Report: Mike Bognanno
  - a. Faculty Senate Committee Vacancy (see attached document)
    - i. Faculty Senate website has a list of all vacancies, a description, and list of responsibilities
    - ii. Request to share this list with collegial assemblies
    - iii. Clarity of Faculty Senate and who is a senator (all); elected (3 per college [*minimum*]); elected to FSSC (1 per college)

- 5 Old Business:
  - a. Proposal to revise the class schedule matrix
    - i. Proposed Monday & Wednesday / Tuesday & Thursday schedule
    - ii. Request to get an update from the provost office (action item)
  
- 6 New Business:
  - a. If you haven't filled out the fall break schedule survey – please do so by the deadline
  - b. Comment on Collegial Assemblies – some colleges have the Dean as the Chair, which is not appropriate
  
- 7 Guest: Dr. Richard Englert, University President (arrived at 2:46pm)
  - a. Difficulty and challenging semester with passing of President Epps
  - b. Some shrinkage of enrollment was deliberate because 40k was too many (Fly in 4)
  - c. Comments on appropriation from the state; we are a public institution by statute
    - i. Governor very supportive and warm; other legislators respectful
    - ii. No increase in support (\$158m) – went for 7%
    - iii. State tried to make University's prevent tuition increases, this would have led to a \$28m loss
    - iv. 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of same \$158m, which equals a \$38m loss with inflation
  - d. Enrollment – currently graduating more students than we are bringing in
  - e. Safety – stressed that campus is very safe, the area around it is the issue; emphasized that someone coming from Bucks County to Philadelphia to commit a crime, that it's now a Temple or Philly problem, rather a state problem
  - f. Students are stressed – plea to take that into consideration and accommodate where faculty can
    - i. **Question:** Could we become a state university, and would we want that?
    - ii. **Response:** We are non-preferred, takes 2/3 vote to pass legislation, if changed to “preferred” (state owned), it would be a simple majority; leery of being state-owned given what's happening in other states; discussion on state funding based on metrics – this could be like to occur soon
    - iii. **Comment:** Retention should be in the strategic plan
    - iv. **Response:** Enrollment is key, we are working on it; our mission is unique
  
- 8 Adjournment: 3:15pm

**Next meeting:** Representative Faculty Senate Meeting -Tuesday, January 30th at 1:45pm; hybrid meeting with location and zoom link provided in advance

Respectfully submitted by: Rick Ridall, Faculty Senate Steering Committee Secretary