

**Faculty Senate Committee for the Status of Faculty of Color
2025-26 Year End Report**

Submitted By – Tara N. Tripp, Chair
Uloma K. Opara-Oshoha, Co-Chair
May 26, 2026

Members:

David W. Brown - Advisor
Sonja Peterson-Lewis
Karen M. Turner - Advisor
Donna Marie Peters - Advisor
Uloma K Opara-Osuoha – reappointed April 22, 2025
Ashley Gardner
Wayne Williams* scheduling conflicts
Lauren G. Johnson*
Kimmika L.H. Williams-Witherspoon - Advisor
Renee Fennell appointed January 4, 2024 *
Ommeed Firouzi *
Tara N. Tripp, Chair

Fall 2025-Spring 26 Meetings Recap:

Three meetings were held virtually each semester with 3-4 members present for each meeting. Discussions were held on FOC events and advocacy on campus. Many of FOC's members were not able to meet via Zoom due to scheduling conflicts, however updates/minutes were sent out to committee members routinely.

FOC Members Present September/October, 2025 Zoom Meetings:

Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon – Advisor
David W. Brown - Advisor
Tara N. Tripp
Ashley Johnson
Uloma K. Opara-Usuhoa
Sonja Peterson Lewis
Renee Fenell

The fall semester got off to a busy start, with FOC planning several events focusing on raising awareness about social issues facing the Temple/Academic Community.

Chat in the Stacks - *Race in the Race* on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 2:30 in the Charles Event Space.

Our panelists examined the role that race is playing in the upcoming election.

Participating in the discussion:

- Philadelphia Inquirer columnist [Elizabeth Wellington](#),
- [Dr. Timothy Welbeck](#), Director of Temple's [Center for Anti-Racism](#);
- [Ethan Tan](#), Director of Data and Analytics for [Pennsylvania Voice](#) (a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to inclusive practices for a just democracy in PA) and
- [Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon](#), Senior Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts and Professor, Urban Theater and Community Engagement
- FOC Member and Assistant Dean for Community and Communication at Klein, [David W. Brown](#) will serve as the moderator.

This program was sponsored by Temple University Libraries and the Faculty Senate committee on the Status of Faculty of Color

November 13, 2025 - **FOC Social Action /Jazz Happy Hour** – in an effort to raise awareness and increase our membership FOC hosted a Jazz/Social Happy Hour at the Temple Performing Arts Center.

Spring 2026

FOC Meetings (Feb-April 2026)

Present:

David Brown Advisor
Ashley Gardner
Sonja Peterson-Lewis
Tara N. Tripp
Uloma K.Opara-Osuoha
Renee Fennell

Spring 2026 FOC Events

February Chat was canceled due to unforeseen events.

On Thursday April 17, 2026 The Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of Faculty of Color's (FOC) hosted a CHAT honoring Cheryl Mack & Karen Turner.

On the agenda for Fall 2026- Spring 2027

- Improving/Increasing membership
- A reception for New Faculty of Color – August 2026
- Race in the Race November 2026 - David W. Brown
- Social Action Happy Hour November 2026
- Honoring Our Community of Researchers/Creative Artists in April 2027

***Indicates members who have not participated in any FOC events or meetings since their appointment.**