

Faculty Senate Steering Committee

9/9/26

Draft Minutes

Present:

In person: Bognanno (MB), Kolodny (RK), Newman (SN); Curtis, Gallagher, Gamero, Jiang, Norris, Solow, Tierney

Online: Ahmad, Ferretti, Jones, McCarthy, Minhas, Porrata-Doria, Racano, Schirmer

Absent: Godel, Letarte, Bacani

Called to Order by Dr. Mike Bognanno, Senate President - 1:00 PM (1:03 pm)

· Welcome

1. President's Report

--The officers were called to a meeting with Pres. Fry and General Counsel Etezady on the allegations against Christopher Barnett. Pres. Fry informed us of the decision to rescind the gift and Barnett's resignation from the Board. The officers agreed that this decision was the correct one, and we appreciated the heads up before the information was made public.

--MB reported on meetings with:

- Bryan Keech, the VP for Government and Community Relations prior to his 9/23 visit to the FSSC. They discussed the current state of play, including what the midterms might bring, and the problems on the horizon for hospitals like ours. Less than 10% of our patients have private insurance, and the estimate is that the Big Beautiful Bill will lead to a 20% drop in Medicaid enrollment. Since the people losing Medicaid will still need healthcare, the change imposes a burden on hospital finances.
- Prof. Jay Sinha, chair of the FS Budget Committee. MB reported that the new Budget Advisory Committee would include 3 faculty, 3 deans, and 6 other voting members and that COO Sobieray supports having a staff member present at all meetings of the Senate Budget Review Committee to help with data and other matters.
- Pres. Fry: They continued to discuss faculty representation on Board of Trustees committees.

- COO Sobieray to discuss the Task Force's Budget Proposal's recommendations that were left undecided.

--National Call to Action from the Department of Education: MB relayed our discussion to the Federal Impact Advisory Committee and asked that the Senate have a chance to review and comment on any response the university was planning to make.

MB had to leave for a Board of Trustees meeting at 1:15, and RK began to preside

2. Guests: Dr. Bryant Simon, Academic Chair of the University Honors Program and Dr. Rita Kreuger, Chair of Honors Oversight Committee

- Introductions of FSSC members
- Dr. Simon understands that there are concerns from FS about faculty involvement in Honors College thus far. But there are many opportunities for faculty input given that there is so much still to be determined, such as whether the College will include a dean or designated faculty or whether it will generate its own revenue through courses and who will teach the classes?
- There *has* been faculty involvement up to this point: He has been involved along with those associated with the Honors Oversight Committee. He suggests a need to revise the composition of the committee; the current committee supplemented their numbers to gain broader representation from colleges and schools. We know we need a student.
- For current planning, there is a Steering Committee that includes 4 faculty members: Profs. Simon, Doktor (Boyer), Valentine (CST), Avi Kaplan (CEHD)
- They plan to conduct listening sessions, though the details are tbd.
- Prof. Bryant is heading the faculty-centered subcommittee, charged with thinking about curriculum. How are we going to staff our courses, given scarcity of faculty? Will Central need to find a way to incentivize colleges and schools to supply faculty.
- They want to do more than be transparent; they want input from faculty as we move toward the College's inaugural year. He and his colleagues are happy to come back and update us.

Discussion

RK asked, given the intention to reforming the Honors Oversight Committee, if this has been discussed with the Provost? A: Not yet.

Q: What are the goals of turning the program into a college?

A: All of our competitors have Honors Colleges, so we need to keep pace. But we also have to consider what makes it a *Temple* program. The program has been successful; we want to amplify its successes by providing more resources for students. Our first priority is not a building but to increase faculty participation and increase discovery grant to study abroad, take unpaid internships, and get training,

We are likely to move toward interdisciplinary, problem-based classes, toward classes on working with archives that include the Library, Shark Tank classes that would bring in Fox faculty.

We want every student to do a faculty-directed project

Q: How is Fox represented on the Steering Committee?

A: Lynne Andersson on the curriculum committee.

Prof. Schirmer was asked to describe Fox Honors: He said it was a robust program; the writing sections have lower enrollments; and they host lots of events. He suggested having someone from Fox Honors on the Steering Committee

Q: By end of year, what do you hope to have?

A: A short-term and a long-term plan. The college opens in the Fall of 2027, so they are working on admissions procedures now. They will soon need decisions about curriculum, faculty supply, and the College's role in the new budget structure. It's clear that they can't require Create projects for the first cohort. They also have to ask what sort of model is sustainable.

Scope: They imagine that the program will enroll around 8-9% of the student body, which is the standard across the U.S.

Comment from member: You are in an exciting but unenviable situation. Given compressed time scale, it's important to keep the FSSC informed re: timeline as you move ahead so that we can give feedback without jamming you up?

Q: Will transfer students be welcomed?

A: Yes—we have articulation agreement with Bucks CC and are hoping to do one with CCP. It's a key topic along with transfers and curriculum and the possibility of online honors college.

Given our acceptance of AP credits, we may need a certificate for those getting through Temple more quickly. This might also be the right model for transfers.

A related question is how to integrate TUJ? They've started an honors program at Kyoto. This is a longer-term question.

Q: How can a new curriculum be implemented next fall?

A, seconded by Prof. Krueger: The existing curriculum probably fine. We've done well with it.

After our guests left, RK noted that we had asked the Interim Provost for information on this initiative and did not receive it prior to its being brought to the Board for approval.

3.Approval of minutes

After discussion, a motion was made to keep the names of members of the FSSC engaged in discussion out of the minutes, though guests would be named.

4. Introduction to Administrative Coordinator, Abby Dabrowski

Abby will be available to the Senate Tuesdays and Wednesdays

5. Committee and RFS Update and Related Matters

- A ballot has been sent for the RPPC, the Faculty Herald and some other miscellaneous committees.
- Another ballot will be coming for other committees.
- We will be working on revising committee changes and composition.
- The Faculty Herald Advisory Board will be full after approving the current nominees. The plan is to have 2 issues a semester, with long form articles, interviews, and perhaps book reviews.
- We are waiting to hear about rescheduling 9/28, made necessary by MB's service on the Board's executive committee.
- The 11/19 RFS meeting can't move to 11/17, at least not in same space
- The 11/5 Budget 101 meeting has been confirmed
- We need people for the Budget Review Committee, esp. from the arts and the College of Education
- Vacancies: Committee on the Status of Women; UTPAC, a full tenured professor, preferably from Tyler
- The officers have been asked to attend a similar meeting on Friday of Exec Cmte

- Back to Executive Committee meeting on Barnett:
 - we conveyed to the President that we thought Temple's actions contrasted favorably with our reaction to the accusations against Bill Cosby.
- Bryan Keech is coming on the 23rd. We should think about the questions we want to ask him. Among them: How can faculty help with lobbying? We need to find funds not tied to donors, and the Commonwealth is a crucial source.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

A question has arisen as to whether associate professors can be used in consultative roles in cases where a department lacks sufficient full professors to make promotion and other decisions.

A: This may be a TAUP question but is more likely to be a matter for school/college and departmental guidelines.

A member proposed a forum on full-time faculty attrition; the crisis has been worsened by the voluntary retirement program.

Full professors are not being replaced by tenure-line faculty.

The problem is compounding, as many associate professors are stuck at that rank because of their service burden.

At the Medical School, the matrix system stops people from those who focus on service and teaching from receiving full or even partial raises. Problem is compounding; associates stuck there b/c of service burden

While Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Wood has some good ideas for improving conditions for assistant professors, more attention has to be paid to mid-career faculty.

6. Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

Faculty Senate Steering Committee, September 23, 2026

1:00pm-3:00pm EST, Conwell Hall Conference Room 3B

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting, Date TBA

1:45pm-3:15pm EST, Center for Anti-Racism, 140 Mazur Hall

Guest: Richard Sobieray, COO

Motion to Adjourn passes 2:48