Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Minutes

11/4/26

Present: Michael Bognanno (MB), Robin Kolodny (RK), Steve Newman (SN); Ahmad, Curtis, Ferretti, Godel, Gallagher, Gamero, Jiang, Jones, Letarte, McCarthy, Minhas, Norris, Schirmer, Solow, Tierney

Call to Order: 1:31

I. President's Report

A. Faculty on the Board of Trustees

--Faculty Representatives will be full participants in discussion but will not vote.

--Criteria for potential selection:

--have to have taught for 10 years at Temple with at least 2 courses per year

--must not have served in a leadership role in TAUP for 10 years

--two other faculty members can serve to substitute on Board committees, but the process for this needs to be clarified

--We need to have nominees ready for the Spring.

B. **Update from the Federal Impact Task Force**

--Following up on whether medical and law school faculty had been informed about the recent threatened lawsuit over admissions, though, again, Temple not yet targeted. University Counsel stated that there has been consultation with these schools.

--There are restrictions on DEI for federal contractors and subcontractors. Such restrictions would apply at Temple to student clubs and admissions. We haven't seen the evidence yet in actual contracts, though we think they may filter down soon.

C. **The administrative response to sexual assaults**

The administration has established a Title IX Advisory Group (working title), which includes as Co-Chairs: Jodi Bailey, Vice President of Student Affairs; Jenn Ibrhaim, Dean of CPH; and Monica Shealey Dean of CEHD. There are currently four faculty members, all of whom have experience in the area: Mary Ingrassia (Beasley) ; Naomi Rosenberg (LKSOM); Laura Sinko (CPH); Jessica Reinhardt (CEHD).

The FSSC then discussed the opening on the committee and how we can help find the right person. We decided to contact Collegial Assembly Chairs, members of the FSSC and Representative Senators.

D The Provost asked us to think about what metrics/rankings matter to us

MB asked the group to think about the rankings/metrics that matter the most. US News and World Report rankings of national universities and Carnegie categories were listed online as highly impactful, but we must be wary setting our strategies purely around rankings. Oher schools have reverse engineered ranking criteria at US News to improve their rankings.

II. VP Report

- A Ballot for the Invention and Patents Committee will be going out
- Faculty Senate Service Awards
    - Member: Our records aren't complete, which is a problem since one isn't supposed to get the same award a second time.
    - Schools nominate candidates, but we need to send a signal that there are more and less effective ways to do it.
    - We have to make sure nominees and awardees are informed; our record on this is spotty
    - Profs. Ferretti, Gallagher, and Jones volunteered to serve on the awards committee.

III. **Guest: Jodi Levine-Laufgraben (JLL; Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Institutional Effectiveness) and Jason Gallagher (JG) on Accreditation**

- JLL is the only liaison officer we have ever had.
- Accreditation has moved from every 10 to every 7 years
- Jason is the co-chair
- The Trump administration is revising the rules of re-accreditation (see details below), including new standards like "intellectual diversity"; Temple will be one of the schools that will have to use these criteria shortly after their adoption, but not the earliest.

- Overview of re-accreditation—events in order: self-study design; VP liaison visit (4/14/26); Work Group Reports for each of the 7 criteria; the self-study for 2026-27; the evaluation visit (Winter/Spring 28)_

- The Role of the Faculty: Awareness, Engagement, Feedback
    - There is a steering committee of 25 people and Lauren Bullock (Klein) is the designee from FS
    - The co-chairs of work groups are admins and faculty with experience in the relevant areas.
    - A huge library of evidence has to be assembled including policies, minutes, and other documents.
    - The process can be seen in greater detail at: provost.temple.edu/middle-states-reaccreditation
    - The materials we'll be focusing on date from the beginning of Pres. Fry's term.
    - Opportunity for Community Input
        - Can use Evidence Submission Form or submit documents to Abby Dabrowski
        - There will be a chance to review the near-final draft
        - There will be meetings during visit.
        - One Middle State reviewer is assigned to governance standard and will probably meet with the FSSC; there will be a prep session.

Q: Is the prior self-study available?

JLL: Yes—either on www.temple.edu/aaair or on accreditation site

Q: Will there be town halls to get us prepared?

JLL: Yes, I can come to collegial assemblies, and we are considering an in-person feedback session for self-study

` Q: Will any town halls allow Zoom meetings?

JLL: We'll need guidance from Middle States. Visiting team chair will determine this.

- **The New Proposed Federal Accreditation Rules:**
    - Increasing competition among accrediting agencies: some colleges and universities may leave to find accrediting groups more in line with their profile as institutions.
    - Strengthening student outcomes and accountability: there are concerns about the proposed metrics

- Improving transfer of credit: this aligns with Temple's current efforts
- Reducing costs of accreditation
- Encouraging innovation: for instance, offering 90-credit degrees
- Intellectual diversity: concerning; no definition has yet been proposed.

- Possibility that a supplemental report may be needed.

RK: Concern about GenEd Race requirement and how it plays into Intellectual Diversity requirement

JLL: We've been making sure since Trump 2.0 that we're in compliance re: scholarships, etc. Our long-standing Student and Faculty Rights and Responsibilities should help address this concern, and we have many well-documented assignments designed to expose people to different ideas.

- While we will be among the first universities dealing with the new criteria, Syracuse and Rutgers will come before us. Kevin Delaney (Sociology) is on the Syracuse accreditation team and Jodi Bailey (Student Affairs) is on the Rutgers team. This should help inform us how these new criteria are being put into practice.

SN: I am concerned about how the demand for intellectual diversity may distort faculty hiring.

JLL: There may be trade associations who will file suits on these grounds.

MB: Does this have anything to do Periodic Program Reviews?

JLL: No; but we have been more careful on issues the Trump administration has identified as problematic in our PPR Reports

MB: I don't understand why these reports are so heavily guarded. In my department, the physical copy couldn't leave the office. .

JLL: We are looking to refresh for this model, but we have concerns about the reports circulating in unhelpful ways.

RK: I understand that; but the current approach seems to be overly restrictive and too variable.

JLL: It does varies with the Chair and how much the Chair takes it on themselves vs. delegating it to the faculty.

SN: To what degree do faculty resources count in accreditation—for instance, the faculty:student ratio, the mix of full-time and part-time faculty, or the mix of tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty?

JLL: This isn't as much of an issue for Middle States. There is some mention of "faculty sufficiency," but it is not as important as with field-based accreditors like the American Association of Colleges and Schools of Business.

4. Unfinished Business

Q: Will Pres. Fry be present at the Budget 101 forum on 11/5?

MB: He will kick it off but will not lead it. He has been the driving force behind this effort, seeking to clear up misconceptions about the budget among some faculty members.

RK: MB, SN, and I talked about GenEd with Provost; the January RFS meeting should be devoted to it

SN: The EPPC will be meeting in December to discuss the new GenEd.

MB: Knowledge application vs. Knowledge Activation

Minutes adopted