

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Present: Rafael Porrata-Doria (Pres., Law), Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (V. Pres., TFMA), Lisa Ferretti (Secy, SSW), Shohreh Amini (CST), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSB), Maia Cucchiara (COEHD), Sue Dickey (CPH), Rob Fauber (CLA), Vallorie Peridier (Engr), Rick Ridall (STHM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Quaiser Abdullah (KMC), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH), Anna Peak (Fac. Herald, CLA), Mark Rahdert (Law), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Shinya B. Watanabe (TUJ)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes: December 1, 2020

The President called for any changes or corrections to the meeting minutes under review. There being none a motion was made to approve the minutes with one noted title change, the motion was seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

3. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President raised that the FSSC meeting scheduled for February 23, 2021 is scheduled during the designated wellness week and therefore the FSSC Executive Committee has decided to cancel the meeting.

The President also reported that several meeting times for the remainder of the year were adjusted to include our colleagues on the Temple Japan Campus (please see the meeting schedule for more information).

The President also consulted the group on the schedule of one meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 PM again to include our colleagues at Temple Japan Campus. A date was selected and the calendar of meetings will be updated and distributed accordingly.

Further, the President reviewed the guests expected at the coming meetings and asked if there were any suggestions for meetings not currently seating a guest.

Item 2: The President reported on the call for Faculty Senate Service Awards programs. Currently there have been 3 nominations. Additional announcements will be sent to the faculty.

Item 3: The President described the process for Faculty Senate elections. Given that there is not an immediate past President to chair the nominating committee Member Rahdert agreed to chair the committee again this year. The President called for volunteers for the 2021 Nominating Committee: Solow, Cucchiara, Amini, and Fauber have agreed to serve.

Item 4: The President updated the members on information related to COVID-19 within the University system. The President provided the following updates:

- Faculty having in-person contact with students on a regular basis will be eligible for testing twice per week; once per week for those on campus but having less contact with students, etc.
- There are more courses being taught in person this semester and there is also increased testing for students in campus housing. There are two dorms specifically designated for quarantine and isolation as needed.
- Adherence to Temple public health guidance regarding COVID-19 are being enforced and generally students living on campus are largely adherent.
- Use of Zoom and other online activities are being used to continue promotion of social distancing.
- Generally it appears that positivity rates are beginning to decline in the communities surrounding Temple Main Campus.
- The President noted that the University has received doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine and is seeking to vaccinate people in accordance with State and University Policy. Temple has responded to an RFP by the City of Philadelphia seeking community vaccination mobile centers throughout North Philadelphia. The details of this are still being worked out but faculty/staff should not wait for Temple's vaccine availability if they are able to obtain the vaccine sooner. Guidance for distribution is currently rather localized making dissemination challenging.

A member noted a situation where a student may lose an assistantship due to their inability to be on campus due to COVID-19. The student is challenging the loss of the assistantship based on this policy. The President suggested that this information will be raised at the next meeting of the COVID-19 Cabinet meeting. Another member noted that the policy in another College was working under a similar policy. The Vice President noted that it is unclear where the policy originated but it would be raised at the next COVID-19 Cabinet Meeting.

Item 5: The President provided a brief update on the process for the Presidential Search Committee including that the Committee is still on track to seat a new President before the next academic year.

Item 6: The President raised the topic of the disposition of adjunct faculty and their inclusion in the Faculty Senate. The President referenced a document circulated by Member Rahdert outlining needed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Faculty Senate in order to include adjuncts. Several questions would need to be answered to make these changes. First, how would an adjunct for purposes of a seat on the Faculty Senate be defined; and second, Collegial Assemblies elect members to the Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee where they may not be known to full time faculty. There are adjuncts who teach many courses and on a regular basis who might be better known and more likely to be involved in other service to their School or College. The President asked for criteria for identifying interest among adjuncts and selection by Collegial Assemblies.

A member responded with information about the designation of adjunct by TAUP based on numbers of hours worked over multiple consecutive semesters. The President opened this issue to the members for discussion.

One member suggested that the Provost would likely need to be advised of these discussions as the need to include Collegial Assembly Constitutions and By-Laws in this change will likely need support from the Provost's Office. The Faculty Senate Constitution will take at least one year to be changed although the By-Laws can be changed sooner.

A member suggested that it might be helpful to look at the Collegial Assemblies' By-Laws as the logical place to start. The President noted that the Faculty Senate does not have authority over the Collegial Assembly By-Laws and therefore the Faculty Senate does not have the ability to direct those activities.

The President asked for ways to define a Senator; and also asked the question whether or not we would want adjuncts to have the ability to be elected as representative senators, serve on committees and/or run for other Faculty Senate elected positions.

The Vice President stated that in terms of the Constitution we would be stating those adjunct faculty who are a part of the bargaining unit would be eligible. Once approved an approach to rules for including adjuncts would be made through the By-Laws.

The President put forth several ideas related to mechanisms to include adjuncts.

The Vice President also noted that the service they would be asked to do might be seen as coercive.

A member suggested that perhaps we should ask the adjuncts how to structure this process. Although this raised again the question about who are the adjuncts that would be eligible. Collegial Assemblies, as noted, vary across the university.

The President asked if there was a sense of the general number of adjuncts participating in TAUP. One member suggested there might be up to 1,000 adjunct members currently.

In order to include adjunct faculty to our listserv they would need to be added as currently we only communicate directly with full time faculty.

The President suggested that if the group is very large the additional service and coercion issues related to adjuncts being members of the senate presents a real concern. The President noted again that TAUP bargains on terms of employment but the Faculty Senate is involved in many things outside of these issues.

The Vice President suggested creating a voluntary Faculty Senate Committee for Adjuncts. Several members agreed this was a good idea generally. This option does not require

amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws and minimizes the coercion issue while it still creates an opportunity for adjunct faculty to have a voice on the faculty senate. Such a committee would need to be created with a mission and purpose and composition. The new committee could be advertised on the website, through listservs and through the TAUP communication.

The President and Vice President will develop a draft mission and guidance for the proposed committee and bring this back to the FSSC and to the Provost's Office.

The President asked for any additional comments or questions from those assembled.

Item 7: The President notified members that a draft budget will be submitted to the FSSC for review and a vote.

4. Vice President's Report: Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon
Item 1: Marsha Weinraub, CLA: Bargaining Units Liaison Cmte. – Materials were presented to the group and reviewed and commented on by the members in attendance. A motion was made to accept Weinraub for appointment to this committee, the motion was seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Item 2: The Faculty of Color Committee is co-hosting a chat in the stacks meeting after the inauguration tomorrow to discuss current events. Several prominent local leaders will be in attendance. The meeting will take place on Zoom.

5. Old Business

A member noted that there is currently a survey circulating about Temple Values and the member encouraged people to complete the survey.

6. New Business
None noted.

7. Adjournment
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded. A unanimous vote followed and the motion was carried. The President adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

Next Meetings:

- **Representative Faculty Senate: Monday, January 25, 2021 – 1:45 PM**
- **FSSC: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – 1:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa A Ferretti, Faculty Senate Secretary