

MINUTES

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 1:45 PM
In Person: Center for Anti-Racism
Mazur Hall, Room 140

1. Call to Order 1:47 pm
2. Approval of Minutes, September 22, 2025 – approved unanimously.
3. Guests: Marissa Cloutier and Susan Sullivan, Co-Chairs, Ad hoc Committee in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADC)

Susan Sullivan, a political science professor, presented an overview of the Compact for Excellence in Higher Education, a 9-page document sent to nine universities, including Temple, requesting feedback on preferential federal funding access. Seven universities have rejected the compact, with some providing detailed analyses, while two universities and five faculty senates have also rejected it prophylactically.

Susan discussed the compact's requirements, such as transforming or abolishing units that punish conservative ideas, performing an empirical audit of faculty for viewpoint diversity, and acknowledging only two sexes. She proposed adding a few sentences to an existing resolution to specifically oppose the compact, while acknowledging the fluid situation and the potential for further action.

The faculty discussed a resolution regarding a higher education compact. Susan clarified that Temple's Ad Hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate (named above) which she and Marissa Cloutier co-chair, is monitoring the situation and tracking developments, though they are taking a cautious approach.

The faculty discussed the Trump administration's higher education compact, expressing strong opposition and concern about its implications for academic freedom and immigrants.

The Senate agreed to adopt the resolution and inform President Fry of their decision, while Susan noted that only a few university faculties had opposed the compact so far.

The Faculty Senate discussed two main resolutions: one opposing the Trump administration's Compact for Academic Excellence and another supporting a Mutual Academic Defense Compact. Susan Sullivan, and Steve Newman presented amendments to add language opposing the Trump Compact to an existing resolution, which would require a two-thirds vote from representative faculty senators.

Next steps

- Provide amended resolution language on the Compact for Excellence in Higher Education to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee as soon as possible for next week's FSSC agenda.
- Faculty Senate Steering Committee: Meet next week to formally discuss and vote on the amended resolution opposing the Trump administration's Compact for Excellence in Higher Education. If approved, send the amended resolution to representative faculty senators for electronic vote.
- Ad Hoc Committee : Review and incorporate suggested amendments to the Mutual Academic Defense Compact resolution, including language to explicitly protect international faculty and permanent residents.
- Representative Faculty Senators: Remind colleagues in their schools and colleges to watch for electronic ballot and vote on the resolution.

4. President's Report: Shohreh Amini

- a. Updates on the provost search. Applications are being reviewed.
- b. There are ongoing searches for deans of the College of Engineering and the Law School. There is also a search for the position of CFO/COO.
- c. Mike Bognanno: Will send updated vacancy form to faculty, specifically indicating which colleges have sufficient members and which need more representatives for committees.
- d. Update Faculty Senate webpage with current representative senators list and committee contact information; working on getting a graduate assistant to help with website updates and committee information maintenance.
- e. Jody Levine Laufgraben, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, will discuss new course matrix and new syllabus requirements at the December FSSC meeting.

5. Vice President's Report: Mike Bognanno not in attendance.

6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Kolodny
Faculty Senate Secretary
Professor of Political Science