Meeting Minutes
Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
3B Conwell Hall

Attendees:
Present: Rafael Porrata-Doria (Pres., Law), Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (V. Pres., TFMA),
Lisa Ferretti (Secy, SSW), Quaiser Abdullah (KMC), Shohreh Amini (CST), Betsy Barber (STHM),
Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSB), Maia Cucchiara (COE), Sue Dickey (CPH), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH),
Vallorie Peridier (Engr), Mark Rahdert (Law), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD),
Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Rob Fauber (CLA), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald, CST), Austin Leong (KSoD),
Salim Merali (Pharm)

1. Call to Order
   The President called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

2. Guests
   • Cindy Leavitt, VP for Information Technology Services (1:00 pm)
     • Leavitt provided an update re Wi-Fi accessibility on campus. Leavitt
       explained that each college unit pays for Wi-Fi access therefore there is
       great variation building-to-building. Leavitt is proposing to the
       administration for a shift in the funding of the model so that there will be
       better access campus wide. It will take approximately two years for
       uniform and upgraded access to be achieved. The proposal is expected to
       pass.
     • Leavitt discussed security issues including phishing attacks and associated
       education. In addition, two factor access credentials and all
       faculty/staff/students will have access to these additional security
       measures across all devices and access points.
       Several members of the community raised questions about specific
       circumstances that were addressed by Leavitt.
     • Leavitt updated FSSC members on the move to Zoom for our online
       platform. This move will be completed by summer 2020.
     • Leavitt reported that a directory for internal use only is being developed
       to provide improved ways for sharing research and data. Development is
       at a proof-of-concept phase and has been vetted by faculty.
     • A full analysis of all classrooms in underway to ensure that all classrooms
       will have updated and adequate technology. Kiva Auditorium is also on
       this list.

- A member mentioned that classrooms are "owned" by the Colleges and Schools and how would it work that technology would be updated uniformly given the budget concerns. Leavitt responded that CLA is the test case and they expect to learn from that experience to support these changes campus wide.
- A question was raised by a member about classroom security and installing a "panic button" of some sort in the event of an active shooter or similar emergency. Leavitt responded that this would be reviewed.
- Leavitt mentioned that universities are considered one of the top three targets for bad actors. This is something that the department is aware of and continues to work on.

- Joseph Picone, Chair of Research Programs and Policies Committee (1:30 pm)
    - Picone presented an update on the Research Programs and Policies Committee.

        Picone presented on the history of the RPPC's activity and changes that were initiated by the Administration that changed the nature of some of the work of the RPPC and its role supporting faculty. The RPPC decided to undertake a faculty survey to understand how it might best support faculty under its mission.

        The survey was distributed via the Faculty Senate listserv and additional information and distribution channels were developed in individual Colleges and Schools.

    - Based on the survey, actionable items for the RPPC this year include:

        1. Improving and supporting the collaboration environment for PIs.
        2. Better dissemination of information about the IRB and IACUC process.
        3. Better faculty presence in the research process at Temple.

    - Several concerns were noted by members including that policies are made on an Administration level and are not always immediately known to faculty; the process related to the timelines required for ERA approvals and more generally the total numbers of applications that will be supported by Temple; and that there is a need to formalize the role of the RPPC with the University Office of Research so roles and responsibilities are clear.

    - Generally, Picone reported that the RPPC would like to find new ways to support faculty and that a good role for the RPPC going forward would be

to continue surveying faculty and identifying actionable items for the RPPC to address. This might include developing and posting resources which could be located at the link to the RPPC on the Faculty Senate webpages. A Canvas Community was also proposed as a place for the RPPC resources.

- Members of the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of a meeting with the Office of Research to discuss the role of the RPPC and better coordinate.

- The Final Report on the recent survey will be submitted to the FSSC when completed.

- Joseph DuCette, Chair, Assessment of Instruction Committee and Gina Calzaferri, Director, Assessment & Evaluation Office of Institutional Research & Assessment (2:00 pm)
    - Background was provided regarding the history of the decision to make changes in the SFF system due to the system being outdated and not meeting the needs of some of the Colleges.
    - The major change recommended was that the SFF be more flexible with a smaller core and an item pool with questions to be added on four levels including:
        - University – Refers to the core items that will be the same on ALL forms
        - Attribute – GenEd, Online, Honors, Writing Intensive
        - School/College
        - Subject Code – We often call this level department, but some departments have multiple subject codes associated with them
        - Instructor
    - Items added at the individual faculty member will only be seen by the individual faculty and will not be seen by others without an opt-in from the faculty.   There are also a maximum number of items set at 24. Each level has caps as to the numbers of questions than can be added. Colleges/Schools are being asked to identify questions they would like for the question bank. It also has not been decide how many open ended questions can be added.
    - The new system was piloted in Law and will be piloted a second time in Law and Pharmacy. The main focus of the pilot is to identify any technical issues with the system and/or users. A question was raised as to the criteria for success in the pilot. It was reported by the Chair that analysis of the pilot data wave 1 and 2 will be completed prior to the full implementation.
    - Full campus wide implementation will take place in Summer II 2020.
    - A discussion is still underway related to the report that will be provided to

faculty based on the revised SFF.

- A manual will be produced with CAT on the proper and improper use of SFF data.
- There is a large body of research on STEs (student feedback). Bias is noted as a major issue in this data in a number of areas but largely discussed in terms of gender and race. It is known that the research is largely negative on STEs and some universities no longer use this feedback mechanism. Administration at Temple has decided that the use of SFFs will continue. The SFF serves as a signal to the campus community that we care about students. The TAUP Contract states that SFFs cannot be the sole data point for teaching to be assessed.
- There is still a plan to release SFF data to students. A member questioned if this was a proper use for the data. DuCette will bring this question to the Committee.
- A member inquired as to the membership of the Committee and whether or not faculty will have any say in this process and roll out. The Chair reported that an effort is underway with CAT to provide resources and information to all faculty.
- A question was raised as to whether or not the graduate students that were a part of the pilot are representative of the responses of undergraduates. DuCette responded that there were some General Education courses included in the pilot data as well.
- A member raised a question as to how questions are developed and selected by individual Colleges/Schools. AIC is recommending that this be a collaborative and consultative process.
- A member asked whether or not the full question bank would be available to faculty members across all College/Schools. The Chair responded that it would.
- A member raised a concern about Colleges/Schools, the use of SFFs for NTTs and Adjunct re-appointment decisions and grade inflation. DuCette indicated that this question is complicated and the literature definitely demonstrates that there is a clear relationship between expected and real grade received. Further, DuCette noted that the literature supports that SFFs are definitely one of the reasons for grade inflation.
- A member asked at what point we would be able to go to our Colleges/Schools to begin discussions around the implementation of new SFF. The Chair reported that it was hoped that this was already in process.

3. Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2019
   The President called for any additions or changes to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

4. President's Report

   Item 1: The President reported that the Provost has approved a proposal that the President of the FSSC provide a presentation and welcome at the new faculty event. The President accepted and plans to attend.

5. Vice President's Report
   Item 1: Committee vacancy lists were distributed.

   Item 2: FSSC Awards Committee is waiting for all award applications prior to review and decisions.

   Item 3: VP statement on SFFs and gender bias

   Item 4: Budget review committee is still in need of three members.

6. Old Business – none noted

7. New Business

   The FSSC Nominating Committee provided information related to the process for electing committee members and developing the slate of nominees. Process and timeline attached.

   A member raised a question about term limits that was addressed.

   Information was provided as to the new electronic location for FSSC Faculty Service Awards and other FSSC resources.

8. 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 3:03 PM.

   Respectfully submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate

Next meetings:
- Representative Faculty Senate, Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:45 pm
- FSSC, Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:00 pm