

Minutes  
Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Meeting Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
3B Conwell Hall

**Attendance:**

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

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

2. Approval of January 21, 2020 Minutes

The President called for any additions or changes to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. President's Report

Item 1: The President reported that many comments were received by FSSC members based on the presentations provided at the FSSC (1/21/2020) and Representative Faculty Senate Meeting (1/28/2020).

There was a brief discussion about the roll out of the revised SFFs and a strategy to provide additional information to faculty. This will be achieved through an email with the minutes from the meeting on 1/28/2020 provided to the full Faculty list. The President noted that it would be important to continue to observe this process and its impact.

Several members reported questions and concerns about the testing of the content of the SFFs in the phase two pilot in Summer 2. Questions were raised as to whether or not either pilot is a truly representative sample to answer questions about the content and process of the revised SFFs. One member noted that there is an additional content test of the SFFs happening in a limited way in the current semester.

The design of the new SFFs allows for the addition of questions at multiple levels; some levels would not require faculty involvement in the selection of items.

Item 2: The President reported on his presentation at an event for new faculty. The presentation included information about faculty service and the Faculty Senate website.

Item 3: The President noted that there are currently 17 nominations for the Faculty Senate Service Awards; deadline is this evening. The Chair (Sapienza) reported on the current review process and the structure for decision making. There was a brief discussion about the new structure of the Faculty Senate Service Awards and other University wide awards. A member noted that perhaps these awards might be re-named Institutional Leadership Awards in our next rounds. One member noted a concern with the word “leadership” rather than “service” – a brief discussion followed related to the viability of renaming the awards. Some other suggested language changes related to the ability for Schools/Colleges that more than one candidate can be put forth by each School/College. The President suggested tabling this for discussion after we complete this round.

Item 4: The President reported that the next issue of the Faculty Herald is expected on April 1, 2020. The Chair (Cirillo) reported that there is one candidate to replace the retiring editor. The Chair also reported revisiting the mission of the Herald to clarify its purpose in communicating with faculty. The Chair asked for discussion on ways to communicate value in the Herald going forward and dissemination strategies.

Members discussed their understanding of the purpose of the Herald and the “voice” the Herald had traditionally utilized as well as marketing, dissemination and other ways to increase readership (including having it linked to the TUPortal). The Chair also noted that there is a real need to communicate value and deeper understanding of what faculty would find valuable in the document. Solicitation of articles and framing the agenda for the committee is an important part of next steps. A member commented that the Herald might be a vehicle for discussing meaningful faculty government.

It was recommended that naming the new Editor to the Herald is an important task and that the person would likely need to be a Tenured Full Professor and someone who is “fearless.” A job description for the role will be drafted and FSSC will provide feedback. A need was also raised about the need for someone who can manage the technical component of production.

Item 5: The Faculty Senate has a new assistant who will support the work of the Senate under the supervision of C. Mack.

Item 6: The President reported that J. Levine-Laufgraben will attend our next FSSC meeting to discuss the upcoming Middle States Accreditation meeting.

Item 7: The President reported that the President of Temple University Japan will be on campus and presenting at the Faculty Senate Meeting and will also meet with the FS Executive Committee – all members of the FSSC were invited.

Item 8: The President reported on a meeting with the President of TAUP regarding the major issues TAUP is working on, if they were of concern to the FS and whether or not there would be opportunities to work together on some common issues.

Seven areas were noted for exploration of collaborative work between TAUP and the Faculty Senate.

- a) The first was faculty workload and increases in the numbers of classes and numbers of students in each class. TAUP is unclear how to address this issue yet but is gathering information to better understand the issue. The members discussed several issues that impact faculty workload including support for early career tenure track faculty, previous workload “grand-parenting” and other issues. A member raised a question about course relief for newly developed course preps. It was noted that these decisions are made by the Dean/Chair.
- b) Decreasing numbers of TT hires across the University.
- c) Several departments being run by NTTs and there is decision making related to Tenure that may be inappropriate.
- d) NTTs being required to participate in teaching, scholarship and service. One member noted that at least one School noted that there may be requirements related to accreditation.
- e) Diversity hiring and retention.
- f) Childcare.
- g) Resources/recourse for faculty when faced with abusive students.

The President noted that the Faculty Senate would communicate through its appropriate committee to explore the possibility of collaboration. One member noted that engaging with TAUP in a time when negotiations are not imminent would be a good time to engage.

Item 9: The President suggested that there is a need for the Faculty Senate to work to set an agenda for the coming year to take a proactive rather than reactive approach to our work. This might begin with some priority setting to drive this work next year. The members discussed the progress made this year and the role that the Temple Faculty Senate might play in defining and developing its role with University Administration and like-minded national organizations working on faculty issues.

4. Vice President's Report

Item 1: The Vice President asked for review of a member for the Faculty Herald:

Jeffrey Doshna, Tyler School of Art and Architecture

A motion was made to approve and seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

5. Old Business

None noted.

6. New Business

-There was a discussion about the policies related to alcohol use at events on campus.

-The nominating committee sent a communication to the faculty about nomination for Faculty Senate Officers and elected committee chairs. The Chair suggested that current officers and elected committee chairs consider putting their names forward if they wish to serve another year.

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 2:28PM.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate

***Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2020***