

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 5, 2019
3B Conwell Hall
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Present: Rafael Porrata-Doria (Pres., Law), Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (V. Pres., TFMA), Lisa Ferretti (Secy, SSW), Betsy Barber (STHM), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSB), Maia Cucchiara (COE), Sue Dickey (CPH), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald, CST), Salim Merali (Pharm), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH), Vallorie Peridier (CST), Mark Rahdert (Law), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Quaiser Abdullah (KMC), Shohreh Amini (CST), Rob Fauber (CLA), Austin Leong (KSoD), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD)

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes were not available prior to the meeting for review. They will be distributed to FSSC members for review and approval at the next FSSC meeting.

3. President's Report

Item 1: Faculty Herald update – many of the articles commissioned for the December issue have been submitted. There are several outstanding articles but they are all expected to be delivered by the deadline. The IT Department has also said it will not erase the webpages for the Faculty Herald and instead it will be merged with the Faculty Senate webpages.

Item 2: RPPC update – The President reached out to the Co-Chairs of the RPPC to discuss the draft report that was disseminated. A discussion took place between the FSSC President and the Co-Chairs via email.

Discussion: This issue was discussed in a prior meeting where the members described the concerns about relationships between the RPPC and the FSSC's oversight. There was a discussion related to other committees and their independence. Several suggestions were made to manage the current issue with the RPPC. An outreach to all members of the committee and to the VP for Research was also suggested.

A robust discussion among the FSSC members provided multiple suggestions for how to manage the current circumstances related to the RPPC. It was decided that next steps would include an outreach by the FSSC President and Vice President to respond to the RPPC Chairs and invite them to discuss the current issue.

To manage potential ongoing concerns with the relationship between FSSC and its Committees a suggestion was made going forward that all committees be required to report to the FSSC or Faculty Senate at least once per year. This is a more general issue and several suggestions were made for how to bring committee members together.

In addition, the Provost will be asked to include the FSSC in onboarding process of new faculty; that we arrange a luncheon to meet with all the committee chairs; and that a member of the FSSC would annually attend each faculty senate committee to orient committees. In addition, the VP will re-send a letter and a copy of the revised by-laws to all committee members.

A motion was made to accept the set of recommendations and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. The President stated he would follow the recommendations and report back to the FSSC.

Item 3: Carmen Sapienza was named Chair of the Faculty Awards Nominating Committee. The membership of the committee includes: Carmen (Chair), Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, and Jeff Solow.

4. Vice President's Report: Candidates for Senate Committees

Item 1: The following candidates were presented to the FSSC for consideration. The following candidates were submitted for approval. A motion was made to approve the proposed candidates and was seconded. All members were approved by unanimous vote.

Candidate 1: Alexa Firat (CLA) Faculty Senate Status of Women Cmte.

Candidate 2: Kimberly McKay (SSW) Faculty Senate Status of Women Cmte.

Candidate 3: Robert Li (STHM) CATA

Candidate 4: Laurie Wu (STHM) CATA

Discussion: The Lectures and Forums Committee application was made available and there was a report from a member that some suggested changes were made by the member to the Committee. There was a discussion about how to make the application/criteria more competitive and equitable. The President suggested that members of the FSSC consider the current charge and review at the next meeting.

The President noted that educating committee members about their role relative to their committee charge. In addition, it was suggested that all Faculty Senate Committee charges might be reviewed by the FSSC.

The VP noted all vacancies and asked members to work to recruit colleagues to fill vacancies.

5. Old Business
None noted.

6. New Business
None noted.

7. Adjournment
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The President adjourned the meeting at 2:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate

***Next meetings: University Faculty Senate, Thursday, November 14, 1:45 pm
FSSC, Tuesday, November 19, 1:00 pm***