

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

Attendance:

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), Sue Dickey (CPH), 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: Maia Cucchiara (COE), Rob Fauber (CLA), Austin Leong (KSoD),

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2019

The President called for any additions or changes to the minutes. Two minor corrections on the attendance roster were noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. President's Report

Item 1: The Faculty Herald was published as expected. The President thanked the Editor and the Chair of the Faculty Herald Committee.

Item 2: The President and Vice President met with the Provost on a number of issues.

1 – A proposal was made for the FSSC to have a retreat or other meeting with the Deans to discuss the role of service at the University. The Provost asked that we consider our outcomes for the meeting and report back to her. It was suggested that the proposed meeting might also open a discussion into the culture in the University and a perceived lack of transparency. The Provost agreed there is a need to look at this but a way forward was not determined.

Discussion: A member suggested that an officer of the FSSC meet with the Council of Deans at least once per year and also that members of the Council attend FSSC meetings annually as well.

2 – There is a time sensitive need for final nominations of the Faculty Senate Outstanding Faculty Service Awards and the Faculty Senate Service Awards. (See Item 3 of the President's report for further discussion of this process).

3 – The Provost reported that there would be an event for new faculty in the spring semester. This is a change to past practice. All are welcome to attend.

4 – There is a long range planning process underway in the Board of Trustees. The President requested that FSSC or other faculty members be invited to participate. The Provost described the process as in its early stages and this might be possible at a later stage of the process.

Discussion: A member asked whether there was a formal charge or statement related to this process. A second member voiced concerns about the importance of there being academics at the table at this early stage.

5 – The Joint Committee on Assessment of Instruction was also discussed with the Provost. The Vice President was asked to send the charge of the committee to the Provost. The Provost suggested several preliminary options for the future of the committee.

Discussion: There were several comments made by members including a discussion of the current and future charge of the Committee, the pilot work of the Committee, the nuances and value of the SFF questions and the question bank options to offset more subjective questions on the survey tool. It was noted that the proposed TAUP contract includes language related to the use of the SFFs.

The Vice President who sits on the Committee discussed the process for selecting and adding questions to add to the SFFs. It was also reported that the Committee would begin working on the overall rating system.

A member proposed the possibility that a resolution of the faculty senate to make a statement related to disbanding the use of the SFFs as they have been demonstrated to be biased. The member will consider drafting a resolution and presenting it to the FSSC.

A member also reported that their Chair utilized a mid-term evaluation sent directly to students via email indicating that there might be another level of assessment being considered. While several members noted the positive role of feedback with students it remained unclear the value of this process being managed by Department Chairs.

6 – It was reported by the Provost that a firm was not hired to report on the social media activity of current or potential hires. The social media research process was used initially with potential honorary degree recipients. The Provost further reported that this process is being used only in certain situations and is being conducted by a unit internal to the University.

Discussion: A member asked if there are criteria for social media items that would be escalated to University Administration. The President reported that he is not aware of any such criteria.

7 – Merit is outlined in the TAUP Contract and was discussed with the Provost.
Item 3: The guidelines for the Faculty Senate Outstanding Faculty Service Awards and the Faculty Senate Service Awards were discussed by the Chair of the Committee. The discussion included criteria for the awards and the nominations and verification process. Nominations packages should be available for review and decision to the committee by February 10, 2020 to meet the timeline outlined by the Provost's Office.

The President called for a motion to charge the Faculty Senate Service Awards Committee with making necessary changes to the nomination paperwork and forwarding for final approval to the FSSC Executive Committee. The motion was made and seconded and followed by a unanimous vote.

4. Vice President's Report

Item 1: The Vice President noted all current committee vacancies and asked FSSC members to work to recruit for the vacancies.

Discussion: It was noted that our criteria for the TAUP Bargaining Units Liaison language should be adjusted to reflect full time faculty only as part time faculty (adjuncts) are now members of the TAUP Bargaining Unit.

Item 2: The Vice President also noted that the spring semester will require a past President of the Faculty Senate to lead the Nominations Committee.

Item 3: Joe DuCette, Chair of the Assessment of Instruction Committee and Joe Picone, Chair of the Research Programs and Policies Committee, will be attending the FSSC meeting in January 2020. Affiliate members will be added to the Research Programs and Policies committee.

5. Old Business

A member raised a concern about mental health issues of students on campus. A request was made for clarity on available resources, procedures, policies, etc. and the need for a comprehensive approach to accessibility of these resources perhaps on the TU Portal. A recommendation was made to have Temple Police attend Collegial Assemblies at least annually.

The Vice President reported on some of the resources as did other members of the FSSC.

The President reported that this will be raised at the next meeting of the Executive Committee with the Provost.

6. New Business

An announcement was made about a concert being held this weekend. All members were invited.

A member asked if there was any protocol for the FSSC report to the Collegial Assembly. The President expressed that the minutes of FSSC meetings should guide reporting.

Another member reported the use of a Canvas site for the Collegial Assembly that a report is made through that system. Other members reported that they provide a verbal report to their assembly.

It was suggested that the Faculty Senate Representatives should make a report to the Collegial Assembly and perhaps the Provost might make this suggestion.

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 2:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate

Next meetings:

Representative Faculty Senate, Wednesday, December 11, 1:45 pm

FSSC Luncheon meeting, Tuesday, December 17, 1:00 pm