

Minutes
Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 1:00 PM
(via Zoom)

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), Maia Cucchiara (COE), Sue Dickey (CPH), Rob Fauber (CLA), Nicole Sifontis (Pharm), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH), Vallorie Peridier (Engr), Mark Rahdert (Law), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)
Absent: Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald, CST)

1. Call to Order

The Vice President called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM

2. Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2020

The Vice President called for any additions, corrections or changes to the minutes. A correction was noted. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

3. President's Report

Item 1: The President reported that work is underway to construct a new website for the Faculty Senate. An audit of current holdings on the website is underway. FSSC member will have an opportunity to review and comment on a draft version of the website prior to the site going live.

Item 2: The President also reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will work over the summer to develop an agenda for the Faculty Senate for the coming academic year. Suggestions from prior meetings will be incorporated and the FSSC will review and discuss this agenda at the first meeting of the FSSC in fall 2020.

Item 3: The President also reported on an outreach by a faculty related to furloughs for both staff and faculty in the coming academic year. The President explained current understanding based on historical practice.

The Vice President commented on a related discussion at a recent TAUP Town Hall.

Item 4: The President closed his comments by noting the important and exemplary service of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee's work in what ultimately has been a very challenging academic year. The President thanked everyone for their service this year.

The Vice President added to these comments by thanking everyone again. On another note, the Vice President reported on receiving an email from their Dean/Administration that all faculty who will be teaching in the summer need to complete training and then be certified to teach online.

A member reported that there are national certification standards related to online teaching.

The Vice President reported that this is a labor-intensive training for given the extra efforts that have already been made by faculty in light of recent events. A request was made to have the Faculty Senate Steering Committee advocate for sensitivity and additional time to meet these requirements.

The President suggested that the FSSC advocate to the Provost for additional time to complete this requirement.

Another member noted that this seems like a one size fits all approach and perhaps a more sensible strategy is needed. A robust discussion followed. It was decided that an approach to the Provost related to this issue would be made by the Executive Committee.

4. Vice President's Report

Item 1: The Vice President noted a petition of demands were put forth by TAUP as a response to requests by central administration related to austerity measures associated with COVID-19 (see attached).

Item 2: The Vice President also thanked Cheryl Mack for all of her work and commented on her gratitude. All members joined in these thanks.

5. Old Business

None noted.

6. New Business

None noted.

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 2:18 PM.