

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Present: Rafael Porrata-Doria (Pres., Law), Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (V. Pres., TFMA), Lisa Ferretti (Secy, SSW), Shohreh Amini (CST), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSB), Maia Cucchiara (CEHD), Sue Dickey (CPH), Rob Fauber (CLA), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH), Anna Peak (Fac. Herald, CLA), Vallorie Peridier (Engr), Mark Rahdert (Law), Rick Ridall (STHM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.) TBN (KSoD)
Absent: Quaiser Abdullah (KMC), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM)

Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2021

The President called for any changed or additions to the meeting minutes which had been previously circulated. There being none a motion and second were made. A unanimous vote followed, and the motion was approved.

2. Guests: The President introduced guests of the meeting:

- Ken Kaiser, University VP, CFO & Treasurer
- Katie D'Angelo, Asst. VP, Financial Admin. & Planning
- Jaison Kurichi, Assc. VP, Budget & Finance

The guests presented information on the finances the University. This included basic information about the size and complexity of the budget and finances, RCM, and the impact of COVID-19. See presentation slides for detailed information.

The presenters called for questions/comments during and after the presentation. Member questions/comments included:

Several members asked for information about the drivers for budget growth. Kaiser noted that the rate of increase is 2.3% and the rate of academic inflation is 2.1%; therefore, this would not be considered growth outside of what would be expected. Bargaining unit salaries in academic units drive most of these increases.

Questions were also raised about administrator salaries where Kaiser noted that top administrators have not had a salary increase in several years. Another question was asked about athletic coaches and Kaiser noted that these are paid through tuition and revenue.

Kaiser noted that adjunct and all faculty hires have been flat over the past several years. Kaiser also noted that RCM does not require a shift to hiring adjuncts, those decision are made by Deans of the Schools and Colleges. Kaiser noted questions related to hiring faculty of any type is left to the Schools and Colleges and he believes that this is where the decisions should be made. He noted each Dean has an advisory committee for their budget.

Another question was raised about the part of the Athletics budget is subsidized by the University.

Kaiser noted that increases to the athletic subsidies are based largely on salary. Schools and Colleges fund their change in expenses based on expenditures and revenues. This is not true for the athletic department. There is a strategic fund available on an annual basis to Schools and Colleges. Deans advocate for these dollars where needed and their distribution is decided by the Provost and President.

Kaiser also noted information about enrollment. Spring enrollment was down very slightly which is typical of Spring over Fall. Projections for Fall 2021 call for a decrease of 1400 students. Summer 2021 is an unknown in the coming year as there was an increase in Summer 2020. Enrollment is a main driver of the budget. Kaiser described several funding sources for aide to students that have been utilized and may be utilized in the future. Student financial services receive a percentage of tuition and allocate these resources as well.

A member asked about budget shortfalls expected for next fiscal year. Kaiser noted an expected budget shortfall of between \$20m and \$30m. Enrollment will drive much of this shortfall. Non-discretionary benefits including employee benefits and negotiated raises will also impact the shortfall. The PA State Budget is an unknown in terms of support for Temple. The budget development process will begin soon and by early May it is expected that a draft budget is expected.

A member asked if the drop in enrollment is believed to be permanent and Kaiser said while it is hoped it is not the budget must assume that it is.

Kaiser noted that if additional Federal stimulus funds were received this might eliminate the need to take actions to balance the budget including reducing staffing and faculty lines.

3. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President reported that S. Powell provided a comprehensive briefing on COVID testing and vaccinations at the RFS meeting last week. This was recorded and posted if you anyone wishes to review.

Item 2: Provost Epps will be out Guest at the next RFS meeting on February 16th.

4. Vice President's Report: Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon

Item 1: EPPC request for revision to charge (attached) – The Chair of EPPC asked for a revision to the by-laws and explained the process needed to enact such a change. The Vice President asked for a discussion on this point and whether or not there were any other possible by-law changes – all of which would require the by-laws committee to be reconstituted.

On the EPPC question, a member asked why the committee would be looking to remove the member of the Provost's Office from the committee. The Vice President will inquire about this and provide the information back to the FSSC. The Vice President also noted that it is within the purview of the FSSC to respond to the request.

A member noted that the committee to review the by-laws will likely need to be reconstituted even though additional information about the request from EPPC is being gathered.

Several members noted that in terms of the EPPC request, eliminating all administrative membership might leave the EPPC without a purpose.

There was a great deal of discussion among the members about the continued inclusion of Deans and a representative from the Provost's Office. A member suggested that meetings on Zoom might make it easier to involve administration.

Several suggestions were made about changes to the proposed language from the EPPC including adding Dean's Representative and Zoom participation as well as inquiring for additional information. The Vice President agreed to have this discussion with the Chair of the EPPC and report back at the next FSSC meeting.

5. Old Business

None noted.

6. New Business

Item 1: A member asked about survey disseminated related to the strategic plan to all members of the Temple Community noting that the survey did not make sense related to the information being sought on core values. Several members made comments on the scientific merit and intent of the survey.

Item 2: A member asked about the composition of the nominating committee. The President reported on the membership of the committee and the Chair reported on an email disseminated with the schedule, process, and nominations process.

Item 3: The Vice President noted that the deadline has passed for nominations for the Faculty Senate Service Awards and they are now in committee for review.

Item 4: A member asked when the next issue of the Faculty Herald is expected. The Chair of the Faculty Herald Advisory Committee reported that they were unable to connect with the Editor to determine the date.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. A vote followed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 PM.

Next Meetings:

-Tuesday February 16, 2021 – 1:45 pm - Representative Faculty Senate Meeting

-Tuesday March 9, 2021 – 1:00 pm - Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate