

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

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 (COE), 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), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)
Absent: Quaiser Abdullah (KMC)

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2021

The President noted that the minutes were previously distributed for review and asked if there were any changes, edits, or additions. There being none a motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. Following a vote, the motion to accept the minutes as written was carried.

3. Guests

- Richard M. Englert, University President

President Englert thanked the members of the FSSC for the work they have done throughout the pandemic. The President provided a brief update.

Englert noted the success of the COVID testing and credited the medical school and its technology which allowed for rapid testing and more importantly rapid results.

The vaccination program is also proceeding slowly but the University is still awaiting allocation of the vaccine from the city for broad use.

- Joanne Epps, Executive Vice President and Provost

The provost again thanked the FSSC for their efforts during this challenging. Epps reports that the University is doing very well.

Epps described a process by which they asked the Deans to consider adding an in-person component to graduation. Epps described the strong desire expressed by students to have an opportunity to "cross the stage." Some Deans did note concerns about the logistics of such an event, but each School and College is considering how this can be done. In many

cases commencement still largely be held virtually.

A question was raised about the numbers of people who could gather, and Epps responded that Temple follows the City of Philadelphia guidance on this matter. Plans now assume the current rules will stay in place.

Epps also described optimism for a larger capacity of students/classes in-person this fall. Again, the Deans have been asked to consider which courses would benefit from in-person delivery.

In order to provide more in-person opportunities, may need to consider teaching in-person outside of the normally desired hours.

A question-and-answer period followed the brief update.

An update for the Athletic Director and the Presidential Search was requested. Englert noted that the searches are being timed so that the AD search moves ahead such that a President has been selected and will have input in the final decision for AD.

A question was raised about a recent report related to the institutions with relationships with the Confucius Institute. Englert stated that the Institute has had great success at Temple University. Deep connections with Universities in China will continue by direct relationships rather than through the Institute umbrella. Englert stated that by summer Temple will have outgrown the need for the Institute.

A member raised concerns about the conditions in College of Education. The member stated they were raising the issues on behalf of colleagues in the College of Education. Englert noted that both he and Epps were here to listen. Epps noted that some of the issues within the College cannot be made public and expressed sincerely that the voices of faculty in the College are being heard.

A member asked if Dean's reviews are on hold due to COVID. Epps noted that all Dean's reviews are currently on hold. As a follow-up a question was raised about how transparent the process would be in the future. Epps reported that _

Another question was raised related to CDC Guidance and small group gatherings for people who have been fully vaccinated. Will proof of vaccination be required at some point for attendance at planned events? Epps noted that the City of Philadelphia has yet to decide how they will implement CDC guidance. Epps also noted that legally there are questions about whether a vaccine that is only authorized for emergency use could be mandated. Epps noted that at the moment it is hoped that the vaccine will be available to everyone who wants to take it, but it is unlikely that everyone on campus will be vaccinated by August when we return to campus.

A question was raised about testing for adjuncts as one adjunct reported that they were

turned away. Englert responded that it was his hope this is not happening and to please send the person to administration. Epps asked for additional and specific information about anyone unable to be tested.

A member stated that the FSSC has both an obligation and a capacity to be involved in Presidential search.

A member thanked the Care Team for a fantastic job in helping a student who was referred. Englert encouraged others to use the Care Team and reflected what a great job they do.

A member noted some concerns about scheduling classes next fall. The member stated that the social distancing would only add to prior issues related to classroom space and availability. The member asked for additional guidance on the goals for fall classes. Epps noted that it is the desire to have as many in-person courses as possible and that most students prefer in-person classes and further stated that it is unclear at this point what the future will hold in terms of in-person capacity considering the likely event of ongoing changes, "the new normal." This may take some years to discover, and decisions should be student focused.

Englert further stated concern for students who are either unable to access online courses adequately and/or learn better in-person and it will be a challenge to work things out. Englert again, thanked members of the FSSC and Temple Health for all their efforts.

A member asked if there would still be access to the Faculty Senate meeting space during planned construction. Englert expects that there will be sometimes when that will not be possible and will follow-up and provide a more definitive answer.

A member asked if there will be a point in time where we might consider looking at online teaching and its environmental impact in addition to the lessons learned for teaching/learning. Englert noted this is a great point and suggested that universities should be at the fore front of these discussions.

Another member thanked the Care Team but also noted that the Care Team is only operational Monday through Friday and there is a gap in off hours. This should be something to consider going forward. Englert asked for any gaps to be reported so these issues can be addressed.

The member noted that perhaps communication is where the gap is and that something on the portal or otherwise easily accessed would improve these issues.

The President of the FSSC thanked both Englert and Epps for their willingness to have these conversations with the FSSC, RFS and UFS and true appreciation for taking the time to attend and be candid at these meetings.

The Vice President also thanked and President Englert for his many years of service as well.

4. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

The President reminded the group that the FSSC meeting of March 23rd would be held at 6:00PM. The next RFS meeting on March 18th will also be held at 6:00 PM to accommodate members from Temple Japan.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee reported briefly that a slate of candidates for the Executive Committee was put forward.

- Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, TFMA, President
- Lisa Ferretti, SSW, Vice President
- Ashley Stewart, SSW, Secretary

There is still time for additional candidates to self-nominate although to date there have been none. The President thanked the Chair for his work and for the important work of succession planning. The Chair thanked the Faculty Senate Secretary for recruiting a candidate for Faculty Senate Secretary.

The President also thanked M. Rahdert for his service and noted that he will be a recipient of the Faculty Senate Outstanding Service Award.

The President noted that the Presidential Search is proceeding as expected.

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

The following candidates were presented for consideration for appointed committees. Each candidate was considered individually followed by a vote. Each candidate was successful, and motion carried for each candidate.

Candidates for 2nd term on committees:

- Moritz Ritter, CLA, Assessment of Instruction Committee, 2nd term
- Slava Rom, LKSOM, Research Programs and Policies Committee, 2nd term
- Quaiser Abdullah, KMC, Lectures and Forums Committee, 2nd term
- Dieu Nguyen, CLA, Faculty Senate Status of Women Committee, 2nd term
- Sharyn O'Mara, ART, Lectures and Forums Committee, 2nd term
- Tim Patterson, CEHD, Library Committee, 2nd term
- Mark Rahdert, LAW, Faculty Handbook Committee, 2nd term
- Mark Salzer, CPH, Committee on Faculty Disabilities Concerns, 2nd term
- Elizabeth Thomas, CPH, Research Programs and Policies Committee, 2nd term
- Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, TFMA, AIC, 2nd term
- Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, TFMA, FOC will assume an ex-officio role this year.
- Matthew Miller, TFMA, Assessment of Instruction Committee, 2nd term

- Wes Roehl, STHM, Assessment of Instruction Committee 2nd

termCandidates for 1st term on Senate committees:

- Finbarr McCarthy (LAW), Committee for International Programs, 1st term
- Cristina Gragnani (CLA), Committee for International Programs, 1st term
- Hiram Aldarondo, CLA for Cmte for International Programs – this candidate is now an administrator and therefore cannot join the committee as a member. The group decided to offer the candidate an opportunity to take the role of consultant. This was also approved.
- Jay Sinha, FSB, for Budget Review Cmte. & Library Cmte.
- Tara Tripp, CLA, for Faculty of Color Cmte.
- Judith Stull, CEHD, for Student Award Selection Cmte.
- Deirdre Dingman, CPH, for Assessment of Instruction Cmte.
- Alistair Howard, CLA, Budget Review Cmte.

The Vice President also noted that the Library Committee is the only Faculty Senate Committee that is operating outside of the purview of the Faculty Senate.

6. Old Business

None noted.

7. New Business

A member raised the importance of mobility for all faculty members particularly in times when we are all working from home on screens for long periods of time. The member stated that they would bring this issue to TAUP. The President asked about the University's Wellness Program. This is mandated by the Affordable Care Act. The President stated that this would be raised at the next meeting of the COVID cabinet. The Vice President also suggested that the need to help prepare faculty to return to campus should also be considered by the COVID cabinet.

Several members expressed frustration about processes and transparency related to concerns raised by faculty relative to Deans. Those assembled engaged in a robust discussion about these issues. Several members offered suggestions. The Vice President was asked to raise these concerns to the provost. A member suggested that we research whether the Faculty Senate should have a policy related to bullying in the workplace.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. A unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Next Meetings:

- *Thursday March 18, 2021 – 6:00 pm – Representative Faculty Senate Meeting*
- *Tuesday March 23, 2021 – 6:00 pm – Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting*

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate