

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - 1:00 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:02PM.

Approval of Minutes: April 6, 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 made was carried.

President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President reported on the UFS meeting last week where Dr. Englert, Service Awardees and Retirees were all recognized.

Item 2: The University General Counsel's Office reported that the Personnel Committee will be active again. A member of the Committee, M. Rahdert reported that there are two vacancies and while these vacancies are elected according to the by-laws given that there are vacancies the FSSC has an opportunity to appoint two members. Rahdert described the role and suggested that we assist in recruiting people particularly faculty represented by TAUP. M. Cucchiara volunteered to serve on the Personnel Committee. The President called for a vote and Cucchiara was approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3: The President reported that the draft of the budget for the coming fiscal year has been revised and shared with the incoming FS Executive Committee. Once the Executive Committee has reviewed the budget it will be circulated to FSSC members and then passed along to the Provost's Office.

Item 4: The President raised an issue relative to meetings for the coming year suggesting that the meetings for the RFS and the UFS remain online and delivered virtually. This creates an opportunity to continue increasing attendance and engaging greater numbers of faculty in the shared governance structure. The Vice President commented that this would be needed at

least for the first semester as the meeting space normally used for this purpose will be under construction.

Item 5: The President noted the great work of the FSSC during these unprecedented times. To honor this each FSSC member will be awarded a glass owl.

Vice President's Report: Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon

Item 1: The Vice President presented the following candidates for consideration for appointed committees (please see attached). Each candidate was considered individually followed by a vote.

Results noted below.

- Candidates for Committees:

- a) Lisa Ferretti (SSW), CATA (approved)
- b) Crystal Harold (FSB), CATA (approved)
- c) Jeffrey Lee (CLA), Faculty Herald Advisory Board (approved)
- d) Donna-Marie Peters (CLA), Faculty of Color Cmte. (approved)
- e) Karen M. Turner (KMC), Faculty of Color Cmte. (approved)

The Vice President reported that 10 committees are at full capacity and 79 faculty members have volunteered. The Vice President noted the remaining openings. The Vice President further reported that the Committee on the Status of the Women elected Chair stepped down and the Committee voted to seat the former Chair for a third term.

A member raised a question about the inclusion of Graduate School representation on the EPPC. M. Rahdert provided some background information related to this and noted that the EPPC would represent faculty in the undergraduate program and the Graduate Board represents faculty teaching in graduate programs. This is an issue that the FSSC/RFS can revisit.

The President commented on the extraordinary work of the Vice President and the Committee members working to fill vacancies.

Guest: Seema Freer, Chr., EPPC

The President welcomed Seema Freer who provided comments on the work of the EPPC over the past year. Freer also discussed issues of intellectual property of faculty relative to their teaching style and how that might be protected. Freer also described the reasoning behind the request for a language change to the by-laws. A question-and-answer period followed the discussion.

The President thanked Freer for the work of the Committee and Freer invited ongoing input from FSSC members.

## Old Business

None noted.

## New Business

C. Sapienza noted that this would be his last meeting with the FSSC as he will be working part time beginning in the fall semester. He expressed his gratitude and thanks for everyone on the FSSC. A new LKSM representative has been appointed.

T. Cirillo will also be rotating off the FSSC and thanked everyone, expressing the amazing experience it has been to serve. A new representative from Fox has been elected.

R. Fauber is also rotating off the FSSC according to CLA policy.

The President reported that he will continue to be on the FSSC as Immediate Past President. The President noted that faculty governance is now more highly recognized by the administration and the faculty. The President stated that "it has been an honor and privilege to be your President."

## Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. A unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 PM.

**Meeting schedule for FY 2021-22 to be posted to the listserv and website soon.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

*Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate*