

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
September 22, 2020 – 1:00 pm
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), Maia Cucchiara (COEHD), Sue Dickey (CPH), Rob Fauber (CLA), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH), Anna Peak (CLA, Faculty Herald) Vallorie Peridier (Engr), Mark Rahdert (Law), Rick Ridall (STHM), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.) TBN (KSoD)

Absent: Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSB)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes: August 25 and September 8, 2020

The President called for any changes or additions to the minutes from the August 25, 2020 meetings. There being none a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. A unanimous vote followed.

3. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President informed the faculty at TUJ that they have been approved for membership in the TU Faculty Senate. More information will follow on the number of senators representing TUJ. The President also suggested that we hold some meetings later in the day to accommodate the significant time difference between our campuses.

Item 2: The draft budget for the FS was submitted to the Provost's Office in June. The budget represented a 10% reduction. The budget was approved without the proposed reduction; therefore, we the FS budget is flat funded from 2019/2020.

Item 3: The glass owls have now been delivered and will be distributed to service awardees along with certificates.

Item 4: The search committee for the new TU President was discussed. There were many faculty, staff and others throughout the University who expressed disappointment with the lack of diversity in the composition of the search committee. Upon review of past search committee composition, the President noted that recent changes to the committee are more representative than in past committees. Both the President and Vice President will serve on the search committee and are required to sign confidentiality agreements therefore will not be at liberty to discuss the search process. The President noted a commitment to ensure listening sessions available to the broad university community.

A member asked if CADA? was consulted on the composition of the committee. The President noted that this did not happen as an oversight.

Another member asked that a listening session for the FSSC by a search committee member other than the FS President or Vice President. The President will make this suggestion. The member continued that reviewing the current policy/protocol for the process of composing the search committee should be reviewed given the issues noted related to composition. The President will share this suggestion with the committee.

A member noted that it was their fervent belief that while the changes to the committee composition are appreciated there is still more that needs to be done to seat a fully representative committee. The member is seeking understanding related to the Board of Trustees process and why they might be unwilling to make additional changes.

Another member agreed with many of the comments but also noted that there is a serious lack of diversity on the Board of Trustees. Burdening more faculty members with the extra work of the search committee exacerbates multiple issues. The member suggested that the FSSC needs to address these issues. The Vice President suggested that everyone has a role to play. Continued pressure will help to outline that needed changes.

Another member noted the incremental improvements, specifically community representation, is seriously lacking.

A member noted that TAUP sent a letter to its members noting that the search committee was greatly improved by adding new members and also expressed that the representation does not address all of the issues of diversity.

A member made a motion to develop a statement related to these issues. The motion was seconded. A unanimous vote followed. The President and Vice President sustained from voting on this issue. A vote was taken and two members abstained.

Two members of the FSSC agreed to draft a letter in response to these issues.

Item 5: The President reviewed changes made to the draft of the Black Lives Matter statement based on member feedback. The President also suggested that the FSSC reach out to experts at TU for assistance with action items reflective of the statement.

A member noted that the statement may have missed its moment and suggested that an action plan might be a better statement at this point. Another member suggested that perhaps a brief statement of the FS website might take the place of the draft statement. Another member asked what we might do and what is within the scope of the FS to do in terms of action items.

A member stated that the statement as developed is a good start to moving things forward.

Another member described a prior initiative related to recycling where TU community members including students, faculty, administrators, etc. were asked to sign a pledge to carry out certain actions related to the initiative and suggested that we utilize something similar.

Another member agreed that the timing seems too late for this statement and suggested that we reframe the letter by highlighting the work that is currently underway.

Another member noted that the statement was not distinguishable from other similar statements.

A member noted that the original intent of the letter was to respond to a student query and that the letter still seems to be written in response to that query. The member suggested that making a very brief statement in solidarity followed by specific proposals would be more supportive.

Another member suggested connecting this statement to the letter we are drafting for related to the Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees.

A member suggested creating a working group and the statement could be about the proposed work of the group. Another member suggested that including members of the community would be necessary.

The President noted that after this discussion that by consensus this particular letter will not be moved forward. The President will draft a concise statement for the website in support of Black Lives Matter. Further, the President suggested that there are specific actions the FSSC will take. To begin this process the President suggested outreach to members of the TU community to consider what action items we might take.

The Vice President noted that a general statement needs to be made by the FS regardless of next steps. Another member suggested that a new draft statement be written. A member of the FSSC agreed to produce a draft. A group of the members will begin work on the process of identifying the work being done related to anti-racism across the campus.

Item 6: The President revisited the noted issues related to Collegial Assemblies and will continue to work on this issue.

Item 7: The President reported that along with the VP, they attended a National Council of Faculty Senates conference. The new national membership organization is collecting information and serving as a repository for best practices on Faculty Senates, providing education related to faculty governance and its importance. This was the third meeting of the group and there were over 100 members in attendance. The group is being incorporated and institutionalized through by-laws, etc.

The Vice President added that Temple is an exemplar compared to many of its sister members in the group.

Item 8: The President noted that given the disposition of the budget, the Lectures and Forums Committee will be fully funded this year.

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

Item 1: The Vice President asked for comment and/or discussion on the suggested changes to the EPPC charge. The Vice President provided an overview of the suggested changes.

A member suggested that we ask if the Chair of the Committee could present the proposed changes to the FSSC.

Another member noted some confusion about the changes being suggested as they seem inconsistent with the current charge.

A member noted that there was a presentation by the then chair of the EPPC to the FSSC several years ago. There were some changes suggested and approved at that time; however, it appears that the changes were not updated on the website.

Another member noted that the changes that are being requested represent a change to the by-laws and therefore would need to be taken up by the RFS.

A member noted that a revision to the charge of the committee can be approved by the FSSC; however, requested changes related to the composition of the committee will need to be presented separately to the RFS.

Item 2: The Vice President reported sending out a letter to faculty related to vacancies on committees and many people responded. Their materials were shared with members. The Vice President asked for member comments on each of the proposed committee candidates.

Two members from Tyler volunteered for the University Sabbatical Committee and there is a need for clarification related to the composition of the committee regarding multiple members from each college/school. Therefore consideration for these candidates was tabled.

A person from the Law School also volunteered for USC and it was determined that composition does not include a member of the Law School.

The following candidates were unanimously approved:

- Kate Benisek (TYL) for GEEC
- Michelle Cosby (Law) for CATA
- Jeffrey Doshna (TYL) for Bargaining Unite Liaison Cmte.
- Tricia Jones (KMC) for University Sabbatical Cmte.
- Tricia Jones (KMC) for UTPAC-C
- Lu Lu (STHM)University Sabbatical Cmte.
- Sabina Neugebauer, (CEHD) for University Sabbatical Cmte.
- Robert Rajewski (FSB) for Faculty of Color Cmte.
- Rebecca Vernon (CPH) for Faculty Herald Advisory Board
- Andrew Yannaccone (CPH) for Budget Review Cmte.
- Jun Yu (LKSM) for Budget Review Cmte.

Item 3: The Vice President noted several vacancies on Board of Trustees Committees as non-voting budget and finance, athletics and facilities.

Several members noted that to date there has not been meaningful work on these committees and this should be addressed directly with the Board of Trustees prior to members of the FSSC committing to serving on these committees.

Item 4: University Placement Assessment Committee needs two members. The Vice President asked if anyone on the FSSC was willing to serve and/or to contact colleagues to assist in identifying potential members.

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 meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary, Faculty Senate

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 6, 2020 – 1:00 pm