

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 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), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSB), Maia Cucchiara (COE), Sue Dickey (CPH), Rob Fauber (CLA), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Sharyn O'Mara (ART & ARCH), Vallorie Peridier (Engr), Rick Ridall (STHM), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.) TBN (KSoD)
Absent: Anna Peak (Fac. Herald, CLA), Mark Rahdert (Law), Shinya B. Watanabe (TUJapan)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM

2. Approval of Minutes: October 6, 2020 and September 22, 2020

The President called for any changes or corrections to the meeting minutes under review. There being none a motion was made to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded, and a unanimous vote followed.

3. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President reported that the first issue of the Faculty Herald will be available before Thanksgiving.

Item 2: The President reported that the new Faculty Senate website is now live.

Item 3: The President made a brief welcome presentation to new faculty at a reception last Thursday.

Item 4: The President reported that two listening sessions (town hall meetings) have been held for faculty to meet with members of the Presidential Search Committee. Another session is planned for this afternoon from between 4:30 and 6:00 PM.

Several members of the FSSC commented on their participation in the prior town hall meetings. A member commented on the use of the term "colorblind" and suggested that members of the Presidential Search Committee attend DEI training as a component of their role. After some discussion it was decided that a question would be put forth at the town hall meeting scheduled for November 10th on behalf of the membership of the FSSC asking whether or not the Presidential Search Committee members would be required to complete

Temple University DEI training.

Other members commented on their disappointment of the perspective by some members of the Presidential Search Committee that Temple University is a business enterprise where students are customers/consumers of education rather than noting the importance of the rich educational process.

Item 5: The President and Vice President met with President Englert recently. President Englert was asked if he could report out the additional numbers of classes being held in person for Spring 2021. President Englert reported there would be more than the current semester but would not provide a number. In addition, President Englert described a mandatory testing process for all students attending in-person classes who remain asymptomatic, faculty members, students living off campus and community members. In addition, quarantine protocols and other testing information was shared with the group. Other COVID-19 protocols remain in place as well.

An open discussion of the membership related to COVID-19 followed.

Item 6: The President described the RPPC survey and a request for guidance from the FSSC on how to conduct the survey and gather needed data. In addition, the President received an email from the PIRCC requesting information related to issues for NTTs embedded within the RPPC survey from last year. PIRCC leadership suggested these issues were not addressed appropriately in the last version of the RPPC survey. The President asked for support from the FSSC to schedule a meeting between all parties to come to some resolution related to the survey. The President suggested holding on the RPPC survey until these issues can be resolved. In addition, there are a great many surveys being conducted due the other important university initiatives including the Presidential Search and the Strategic Plan.

Item 7: The President raised the topic of adjunct instructor representation on the Faculty Senate. The President reached out to the national network to determine whether or not other faculty senates had taken on this issue and if so how. Initial responses from other faculty senates within the network generally had not resolved this issue to date. One faculty senate addressed adjunct instructor participation by adding one additional senator position for an adjunct faculty senator to the full senate; this senator would be voted on by the full faculty.

The President suggested possibly amending the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-laws to recognize all faculty members (full or part time) as faculty senate members and to add to the number of Representative Faculty Senators by adding one adjunct senator position for each school/college to be voted on by the faculty of each school/college. This process would take a full year to execute as the Constitution and By-laws would need to be amended. The President noted some potential challenges with this approach. The President called for comments from the FSSC.

There was a discussion among the membership about possible alternatives and suggestions. The President will continue to explore options.

Item 8: The President reminded the members that the Representative Senate Faculty meeting is scheduled for this Thursday and Kevin Delaney is the guest speaker.

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

Item 1: The Vice President recounted an email from the Provost regarding EPPC membership and at this point the Council of Deans has not reappointed ex-officio members to the EPPC. The Vice President suggested this be discussed further as a possible change to the Constitution and by-laws.

Item 2: The Vice President thanked the members for assisting in moving nominations forward in between meetings for several critical elected committee members.

Item 3: The Faculty of Color Committee held the Diversity Symposium which was well attended. Members commented on the power and success of the event.

Item 4: The deadline for adding your own questions to the new SFFs is tomorrow at 11:59 PM. The Vice President suggested members review the large question bank to identify items that might assist in managing the bias inherent to the SFF. As a member of the SFF committee, the Vice President reported that there are several other issues and concerns within the new SFF in particular student review of faculty ratings.

Item 5: Chaired by Dan Berman and Cindy Levitt, the steering committee has over 40 members and is broken up into three working groups of administrators, staff, faculty, graduate students and business members. I serve on the Values and Culture sub-committee. We meet every week. Thus far, our subgroup has designed a survey that we hope to send out to the university community to ascertain how well (or poorly we think we are doing in living out our values.)

The push is looking toward our 150th anniversary.

Item 6: The Faculty Service Awards nomination letter draft was provided to members of the committee for review. Member Sapienza is the Chair of the Awards Committee.

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 2:49 PM.

Next Meetings:

-Thursday November 12, 2020 – 1:45 pm Representative Faculty Senate Meeting

-Tuesday November 17, 2020 – 1:00 pm Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa A Ferretti, Faculty Senate Secretary