

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 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), 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), Carmen Sapienza (LKSM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)
Absent: Maia Cucchiara (COE), Rick Ridall (STHM)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes: September 22(revised) and November 10, 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 approximately 200 – 225 faculty members participated in 3 town halls related to the Presidential Search. FSSC members inquired at the last town hall meeting about the need for members of the Presidential Search Committee participating in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training. A member of the Presidential Search Committee noted that this training is planned. The President and Vice President of the FS indicated that they were confident this would happen and would be done well.

The Presidential Search Committee is also conducting a web-based survey related to the desired qualities and characteristics of candidates. The President encouraged all members to disseminate the survey which will also be posted on the FS website. A member asked if the survey was approved by the University Survey Committee. The President said that it was not sent to the University Survey Committee.

Item 2: The President re-opened discussion related to adding adjunct professors in the FS. As follow-up the President consulted with an FSSC member with expertise in the FS Constitution and By-laws. The member will consider the issues and provide a written response for consideration at a future meeting. As adjuncts are now members of the TAUP this is something for serious consideration and will definitely require changes to the

FS Constitution and By-laws and ultimately will need ratification by the full University Faculty Senate.

Item 3: The President noted that a resolution from the International Programs Committee. The President read aloud the resolution to members (see attached) which was related to the disposition of visa holders and their contributions to the Temple University Committee. The President asked for discussion. The Vice President noted that a climate of inclusivity is needed and we should vote to approve. A member asked a question related to when this was provided to the FS and the President noted that this was received approximately 3 weeks ago. The President called for a vote to send the resolution to the University Administration. A vote was taken to approve and forward the resolution. The vote was 14 in favor and 1 abstention.

Item 4: The President described the need for further discussion related to the proposed surveys by the RPPC and the PIRC. Representatives will be our guests at today's meeting.

The President asked if there were any further questions or comments.

A member asked if there has been any discussion at the University related to the new COVID restrictions that were announced in the City of Philadelphia and how that might impact the University Community going forward. The President noted that there was a meeting to be held today to discuss further. This item was tabled for later in the meeting as the guest speakers arrived.

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

Item 1: The Vice President reported that Collegial Assemblies would be meeting soon and response to vacancies has been wonderful. To that end, the Vice President asked that all members consider this an opportunity to continue to fill vacancies and also to raise the importance of elections related to faculty governance.

Item 2: The Vice President asked if anyone added questions to the SFF. The Vice President reminded everyone that we would have the same opportunity in the next semester. These additional questions support faculty in learning more about items of importance to their teaching and also to balance some of the bias noted in these types of surveys. A member raised the fact that they attempted to gain access to the system and were unable to do so even after contacting the email address indicated and had still received a reply. The Vice President noted this and would follow up.

Item 3: The Provost's Committee for the Assessment of Placement of incoming students and we have not had anyone interested in joining the committee. The Vice President asked again for member support in identifying a candidate.

The Vice President called for any questions or comments. The President congratulated the Vice President on her success and the Vice President thanked the members of the FSSC.

5. Guests: Slava Rom, Chair, RPPC, and Don Wargo, PIRC (1:30 pm)

The President welcomed the guests to the meeting. The President noted that FSSC members reviewed the email communications between the RPPC and the PIRC.

Chair of the RPPC discussed a meeting where the survey and its questions were discussed. Many members of the RPPC had questions and comments about the survey. There were some common concerns related to research accounting and human resources in terms of hiring on grants. The Chair noted that approximately 10% of respondents to the survey self-identified as NTTs. The Chair noted that the RPPC generally deals with research policies and questions raised by NTT respondents were largely focused on workload and research requirement for promotion. The RPPC suggested through a memo that they should consider review of contracts to answer some of these questions. The Chair also noted that the issues raised were not related to the purposes of the RPPC.

The PIRC represents NTT members of TAUP. Professor Wargo is the elected Chair of the PIRC. The Chair noted that the response made to the RPPC was educational in approach and welcomes further discussion of these items. The Chair's objection noted that the RPPC response to the survey results indicated that Deans of Schools and Colleges do not have research responsibilities according to the TAUP contract.

The President of TAUP acknowledged that membership of the RPPC and the PIRC have different memberships and that there is a noted separation between entities. The President described NTT Research faculty covered by the TAUP contract would be able to earn merit. A second issue noted that NTTs are being charged with the tri-part mission in Fox and CPH which is not consistent with the current language in TAUP. This is an ongoing issue. The issues around NTTs were central to TAUP membership and negotiations. There are questions related to what can and cannot be required of NTTs.

The Chair of the RPPC commented on the composition of the body. The Chair agreed that the work being conducted by TAUP was good but that this still falls outside of the scope of the work of the RPPC.

The President of the FSSC noted that there are a number of NTTs in schools where the TAUP contract does not apply. Some of the comments in the RPPC might not know where to go with the issues raised. If this is an issue beyond TAUP then how should these things be managed going forward as there may be a need for additional input. The President asked for questions and comments.

The Chair of the RPPC noted that the survey did not make clear whether or not

respondents to the survey are TAUP members.

The Vice President clarified that the RPPC as an FS Committee has the authority to represent faculty views across the University.

A member asked if anyone reviewed individual schools and colleges to determine the level of involvement of NTTs in research and teaching.

TAUP noted that the contract notes that NTTs are required by the contract to conduct two of the three mission areas. TAUP is now in receipt of every NTT contract to determine where there may be issues with individual contract language related to the tri-part mission and/or other things NTTs are being required through their individual contracts.

PIRC mentioned the response to the RPPC memo seemingly putting the onus of responsibility on the faculty rather than administrators. In addition, the PIRC has voted to change the terminology NTT strongly objecting to the “non” terminology. A memo from 2015 was distributed related to the change in name. Practice, Instruction, Research and Clinical – the elected constituency council voted to adopt this for TAUP members. This name will be shared more broadly.

TAUP noted that the nomenclature PIRC is not utilized in the contract. Along with encouraging NTTs to review the TAUP contract, it is also critical that administrators also reach and understand the contents of the contract. TAUP encouraged everyone to share their questions, comments and concerns.

The President thanked the guests and noted that this discussion was helpful to our understanding.

The Vice President asked a question about adopting the PIRC nomenclature and the President noted that the legal designation is still NTT.

The President asked the Editor of the Faculty Herald when we might expect the next issue of the Herald. The Editor noted that work is continuing and it is hopeful that the issue will be ready by the end of the week. The President noted that the issue will be posted to the FS website.

The President re-opened the tabled discussion related to COVID. A member of the FSSC noted that a link to the Philadelphia website with updates to COVID statistics noting that the numbers are increasing rapidly. Several members discussed concerns related to COVID. The Vice President noted again the need to request accommodations if needed. The Vice President also noted that university administration related that the current “essentials plus” model planning is being considered but no decisions have been made.

The President raised another issue related to the RPPC and whether or not the denial of

the University Survey Committee for the RPPC to conduct another survey this year should be reviewed by the FSSC. The President suggested that we wait until next year to revisit this. A member suggested that the University Survey Committee should have stated policies and objective criteria for denying and this should be discussed with the Provost's Office.

The President noted that the Provost was attending the FSSC meeting in January and this might be added to the agenda.

6. Old Business

The Vice President noted that the Faculty Senate Service Awards nominations announcement would be disseminated soon. As of this writing the in-person awards ceremony is expected to be cancelled.

7. New Business

The President noted guests for the next two meetings including President Englert, Valerie Harrison, Cindy Levitt and Dan Berman.

The President also suggested canceling the meeting of the FSSC planned for December 15th as the luncheon will obviously not be feasible. The Vice President noted a tentative cancellation as there may be a need to meet related to the COVID information and planning.

Another member described the Temple Sustainability Pledge. The member suggested that this model was a good one for getting people involved. For example asking people to sign a pledge related to inclusivity. The member will send out a flyer related to the initiative and asked that we consider the model to support FS initiatives.

8. 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 2:39 PM.

Next Meetings:

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

-Tuesday December 8, 2020 – 1:45 pm University Faculty Senate Meeting

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa A Ferretti, Faculty Senate Secretary