

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021– 1:45 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 87 participants in virtual attendance

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:46 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 14 and November 12, 2020

The President stated that the meeting minutes had previously been distributed for review and asked if there were any corrections or changes needed. The President called for a motion to accept the minutes as written. A motion was made and seconded. A vote followed and the minutes were approved.

3. Guest: Sarah Powell, Dir., & CFO, Office of Emergency Management

Powell provided a brief introduction about her prior work and current role. Powell described the context and process for COVID-19 asymptomatic testing as a surveillance method; this necessitates an increase in testing over time. Powell reported that the vast majority of positive cases last semester were students living in off campus housing. There are no known cases of transmission in a classroom. Where faculty/staff have tested positive this was due to off campus behavior. The majority of cases continue to be students and therefore students are being tested to continue surveillance and mitigate spread.

Powell then presented information on COVID-19 vaccine distribution at Temple. Powell described three main issues: logistics, uptake, and equity. Powell described that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determine the rules for Philadelphia not the state of PA because it is a designated large urban center. Furthermore, the characteristics of vaccine logistics issues including size, location, storage, personnel, etc. were also described.

Powell described equity in the context of the COVID-19 vaccination program in terms of the national phase approach. These decisions are made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices who make these recommendations to the CDC. Powell described the City of Philadelphia's Phase Plan where there is some local control. Phase 1 is proceeding as noted. Additional and limiting criteria were considered for the Phase 2 roll-out and the City opted not to include higher education. Other consideration may mean that people over age 65 would not be eligible in the City until Phase 3 or later. Those wishing to pursue vaccination where they are eligible by State but not City guidance should seek vaccination in their local county.

In terms of uptake, Powell noted that only 52% of people currently offered the vaccine through Temple are accepting the vaccine. This is a problem in terms of getting "back to normal." Powell described that we are all responsible for providing information to those undecided. There are currently faculty working on messaging and messengers to provide information to those unwilling to accept the vaccine.

Disparities abound and include underrepresentation, hesitancy (trust) and communication strategies able to reach eligible people. While there are good communication and marketing campaigns available, there is as yet, no federal funding for local public health to mount campaigns.

Powell discussed the releasing of the stockpile to stretch the vaccine but without additional supply second vaccinations may or may not happen. These strategies, while not harm causing, they potentially decrease efficacy.

Powell described the need for continued personal mitigation will be a part of campus life for the foreseeable future. Powell noted several trusted sources to continue to monitor.

Powell asked if there were any questions.

A member asked if you could get the vaccine at Temple Hospital and Powell said no, unless you are a resident of Philadelphia. To find information about vaccination sites in your County go to the County Department of Health website. COVID Fights Philly nonprofit is a partner with the City as is the Black Doctors Consortium and the Philadelphia Department of Health has a sign-up. If you are over 65 and live anywhere other than Philadelphia, then you are

currently eligible to receive the vaccine although there are still priority populations in some cases. Please see your local Department of Health Department for specific information you would need to access the vaccine. There is currently more demand than supply.

A member asked a question about the current knowledge on allergic reactions. Powell described some of the circumstances surrounding these issues. Those who are vaccinated are observed for a period of time afterward and vaccination sites are prepared for potentially life-threatening reactions. Anyone who has a concern should speak with their Primary Care Physician. Powell also described that the chance of having a severe reaction to the current vaccines is very low.

4. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President reminded those assembled that the next meeting of the RFS would take place on February 16th and Provost Epps will be our guest. March 18th the meeting will convene at 6:15 PM to accommodate members of the RFS from Temple Japan and the guest will be Hai-Lung Dai, Vice President for International Programs. On April 14th the UFS will meet and President Englert will be our guest. This meeting will also recognize this year's recipients of the Faculty Senate Service Awards as well as faculty retiring at the end of the year.

The President further described the Faculty Senate Service Awards and the nomination process. Please review the criteria on the FS website. Nominations are due by February 1, 2021.

The President also reminded members that the elections for officers and elected committees of the FS for the coming year would be held in April. For more information about nominations please see the FS website.

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

Item 1: The Vice President reported on current committee vacancies and the upcoming elections. Please see the website and information provided through the faculty senate listserv for more information.

6. Old Business

The President called for old business.

Member Wargo, Chair of the Budget Committee, described information related to the budget and dropping enrollment impacting the budget by approximately \$35m. A meeting of the Committee with Ken Kaiser, University VP, CFO & Treasurer will take place this week. Wargo will provide minutes from the meeting that will be distributed to the Faculty Senate listserv.

Vice President Williams-Witherspoon answered a question in the chat related to refusal to take the vaccine and it was stated by administration that there would be no punitive action taken if you do not accept the vaccine.

Another question through the chat raised the issue of teaching in person if you are unable to receive the vaccine. The President noted that it was hoped that people would have a choice.

A member noted that orderly patience is needed but if you are required to teach in person and want the vaccine you should ask.

7. New Business

None noted.

The President thanked those assembled for their participation in shared governance over the past year.

8. Adjournment

The President called for any additional comments or questions. There being none a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried via a vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.

Next Meeting: Representative Faculty Senate, Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 1:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A Ferretti, Faculty Senate Secretary