

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 1:45 pm

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE: 83 participants in virtual attendance

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:49 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2020

The President called for any additions, changes, corrections, etc. to the previously circulated minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded and carried after a unanimous vote.

3. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President thanked everyone who was involved in the new Faculty Senate website which is now live. The President placed the link for the website in the chat for members to review.

Item 2: The President reported that the FSSC appointed Anna Peak as the new Editor for the Faculty Herald. The new website will host future publications of the Faculty Herald. The President called for contributions from the faculty for the publication.

Item 3: Kevin Delaney will be our guest presenter at the next RFS meeting on November 12, 2020. The main focus of Delaney's presentation will focus on COVID-19 concerns and response.

Item 4: The President noted the need for ways to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) affecting faculty, students, and staff. The FSSC developed a statement related to DEI. The statement will be posted on the website. The President noted the need for action. The FSSC will be meeting with Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Valerie Harrison, and these meetings will help us to move these issues to action.

Newman noted gratitude for the statement provided by the FSSC and the need for the faculty to consider the new federal U.S. Presidential Executive Order related to changes in training for DEI. In addition, all hiring, including among high level administrators and the representation of key decision makers does need to be admitted.

Item 5: The President shared information related to discussions in the COVID Cabinet related to offering additional in-person classes in the Spring 2021 semester.

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

Item 1: The Vice President thanked everyone who volunteered to for service on committees. Further, the Vice President noted remaining committee openings.

In response to the Vice President's mention of the University Presidential Search Committee composition a member described efforts made to increase diversity on the committee. A letter was composed and reviewed by the FSSC and sent to the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee.

5. Old Business – none noted.

6. New Business – none noted.

A member described concerns about budget issues due to the RCM and their impact on schools and colleges and the issue of DEI was also raised. See transcript for additional information.

7. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and a vote taken. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Next Meeting:

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

Guest: Kevin Delaney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Respectfully Submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Faculty Senate Secretary