

University Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2019 – 11:45 pm Kiva Auditorium, 1st Fl., Ritter Annex
Videoconference: HSC, MERB 342 – AMBLER, LC301

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

(to be included later)

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 1:48 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes: April 18, 2019

The President called for corrections of additions to the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting of the University Faculty Senate. There being none, a motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded. A unanimous vote followed. The motion was carried.

3. President's Report: Rafael Porrata-Doria

Item 1: The President reported that the Bylaws at a Representative Senate meeting on September 16th of this year. These changes address outdated practices and language in the Bylaws. Copies of the Constitution and the amended bylaws are available in print copy at this meeting.

Questions: Article 3 under membership seems to contain two sentences that contradict one another.

The Counsel to the Committee on Bylaws explained the history and context of these statements clarifying the status of full time faculty holding administrative positions.

A suggestion was made to add a clarifying statement to address this issue but as the amended Bylaws have been adopted by both the FSSC and the Faculty Representative Senators, no such statement will be added at this time.

Item 2: National Council of Faculty Senates held a meeting in October that the President attended. The purpose of the Council is to share information across University systems. Temple University is a founding member of the Council. There is a process underway to incorporate the organization. More information will follow as available.

Item 3: The President reported on the status of the Faculty Herald and its

committee. The Faculty Herald Committee has met to discuss formatting, production and distribution along with content. The next issue is coming out in early December. Faculty wishing to share ideas or thoughts should contact Terry Cirillo, Committee Chair at Teresa.cirillo@temple.edu

Item 4: The President asked for feedback from the Faculty related to the work of the Faculty Senate both in terms of content and process.

Discussion/Comments:

A faculty member came forward to seek additional input for an article for the Faculty Herald related to the challenges in being promoted from Associate to Full Professor when someone has been languishing in that rank for many years.

A second issue was raised related to the erosion of Tenure Track and other faculty in favor of contingent faculty and what this represents in terms of committee work, etc.

The Vice President appealed to the Senators to share their concerns and also voiced concerns about the value of service at the University.

A concern was raised related to the merit committee process for NTT faculty who according to the guidelines can only receive merit on two out of three criteria. If NTTs are evaluated on all three criteria, then NTTs should be able to receive merit on all three criteria.

A concern was raised about the distribution of teaching load at Temple. The workload has outsized expectations related to teaching, service and research with the four-four teaching load. It seems like we are not talking about this and we need to begin living up to our status and values without these outdated expectations around teaching.

There is a Committee studying the teaching load question but there has been no report to date.

At the College or School level – the NTT requirements for teaching, service and research are decided. Some colleges/schools only require NTT to work in two of three areas and others require all three.

For a number of years, we have been working under a President who did not undergo a search and there was no meaningful faculty engagement in that search process.

There was a decennial review established a number of years ago that seems to have become eroded as well.

Graduate student teachers are very vulnerable and have very heavy workloads as well.

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

Item 1: The Vice President reported on current vacancies on committees and asked that members encourage their colleagues to join committees.

Item 2: The Vice President provided a report on the Assessment of Instruction Committee report. A pilot of the new SFF form and process will be done in the Law School followed by a larger pilot and then a roll out in 2020-2021.

Item 3: Lectures and Forums Application is available and in the packet.

5. Guest speaker: JoAnne Epps, Provost

Provost Epps provided an update including the following:

Please visit the Charles Library if you have not done so.

A report was provided on the search for the Dean of the Rome and Tokyo Campuses.

There is a Committee of the Board of Trustees looking into planning for the future of Temple globally. This will be an ongoing planning process and is running on a parallel track named the Futures Committee made up of Deans. We will begin a speaker series to address the issues raised in both committees.

Questions/Comments/Discussions

A concern was raised related to the merit committee process for NTT faculty who according to the guidelines can only receive merit on two out of three criteria. If NTTs are evaluated on all three criteria, then NTTs should be able to receive merit on all three criteria. Provost response noted that the expectations are outlined in the TAUP contract and decided at the School/College level.

A faculty member responded that Schools that require all 3 areas are in violation of the contract. A follow up question was asked related to the erosion of tenure. Provost Epps responded that tenure protects the intellectual curiosity of faculty. The debate seems to be related to the numbers needed.

A concern was raised about MOOCs and their impact on our work as faculty. Provost responded that it seems faddish and not long term sustainable for higher education. While higher education is changing the changes in our work and workforce will keep people engaged in lifetime education through badges and other mechanisms.

A concern was raised about reports about the social media activities of faculty candidates. This developed in the President's Office. It is not a litmus test but it is meant to ensure that we do know who we are hiring. It was designed to be sure that the President and other administrators were not caught unaware. It was designed to be used in nefarious way.

6. Old Business

None noted.

New Business

None noted.

7. Adjournment

The President called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded. A unanimous vote followed. The motion was carried and meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Next Meeting: Representative Faculty Senate – Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa A Ferretti, Secretary Faculty Senate