

Agenda
University Senate Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2009
1:45pm, Kiva Auditorium

1. Call to order
2. Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico
3. Approval of Minutes - March 18, 2009
4. Reports of Officers:
 - President Karen M. Turner
 - Vice President Paul S. LaFollette
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business - Motion: Status of Contract Negotiations and Involvement of the Presidency
7. Adjourn

Next Meeting

Friday May 8th

Guests - President Ann Weaver Hart and
Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico

*for senate information consult the website:
<http://www.temple.edu/senate/>*

Motion: Status of Contract Negotiations and Involvement of the Presidency

Whereas:

Article II ¶3 of the University Senate Constitution states:

“The Faculty Senate shall have the responsibility and right, by the exercise of one or more of its powers, to advise the administration and the Board of Trustees on all matters of University policy, on all matters affecting the relations of the faculty of the University, and on all other matters of policy and administrative decision-making in which the faculty claims a reasonable advisement either through consultation or review and either at the initiation of the administration or at its own recognizance. The Senate, through the process of recommendation, may initiate advice to the administration and Board of Trustees on any matter of policy, decision and program.”

And whereas:

The current situation, in which Temple University and TAUP have been unable to agree to a contract since negotiations began in June 2008, is having increasingly serious negative consequences, such as:

- a depressing sense of uncertainty and concern among our students.
- a similarly debilitating sense of futility among the faculty which has evidenced itself, for instance, in the difficulty in finding faculty from TAUP schools and colleges willing to undertake necessary university service.
- the appearance to the outside world of an institution that is unable to settle a contract with its faculty nearly six months after the previous contract expired.
- the potential to seriously damage the University’s capital and other fund raising campaigns.

And whereas:

A sound and current contract is necessary for establishing and maintaining the rights of faculty with respect to such vital issues as workload, study leaves, and disciplinary procedures and also for the establishment and maintenance of policies and procedures for tenure and shared governance – the essential underpinnings of academic freedom.

And whereas:

President Hart has thus chosen to entrust the leadership of the negotiating team to others, some of whom may not fully understand the historic practices and principles important to scholars at this academic institution.

And whereas:

The continuing lack of progress threatens to undermine the faculty's confidence in the President and the faculty's support of her plans for Temple.

Be it therefore resolved:

That the Faculty Senate exercises its responsibilities, as outlined above, to urge President Hart to take immediate steps to move the negotiations forward. We further advise and suggest that President Hart begin to take a role of greater visibility and leadership in the negotiating process, that she become actively involved in the negotiations, and that she take positive steps to ensure that the negotiations proceed in an atmosphere of respect for the ideas of collegiality, shared governance, academic freedom, and other issues critical to a community of scholars and artists.

**Proposed: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
April 16, 2009**