Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2012

Present: Joan Shapiro (Pres), Mark Rahdert (Vice Pres.), Tricia Jones (Secy.), Paul LaFollette (Past-Pres.), Kurosh Darvish (Engr), Deborah Howe (SED), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Chip Jungreis (TUSM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Michael Sachs (CHP), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Karen Turner (SMC), Doug Wager (TFMA), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald), Steve Newman (Fac. Herald), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Michael Jackson (STHM), David Sonenshein (Law), Leona Sperrazza (Dent.)

1. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of the FSSC meeting for April 24, 2012 were moved and seconded and approved unanimously.

3. President’s Report:
Faculty Senate President Joan Shapiro began the meeting by thanking Past-President of the Faculty Senate, Paul LaFollette and his wife for hosting the FSSC Summer retreat at his home. Paul will be reporting on that retreat at the next FSSC meeting.

Joan gave congratulations and thanks to Senate Staff Cheryl Mack for her diligence in helping to create the new Faculty Senate web site. Joan also mentioned that we received significant help from Provost Dai and Jodi Levine Laufgraben, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment, for their help and support in focusing resources to make the new site happen and to the staff from Creative Services for their creative and technical work on web site design and launch.

David Waldstreicher, current editor of the Faculty Herald, gave an update on the Editor position for the Faculty Herald. He reminded the FSSC that Steve Newman (CLA) will be transitioning into the Editor position this semester. He also reported that it is his understanding from Frank Friedman (CLA), chair of the Publications Committee, that Provost Dai has agreed the Provost’s office will cover release time of one semester for the Editor position and the Dean of CLA will cover release time of one semester for the second semester of the year.

Michael Jackson (STHM) will be reporting on the Fresh Brunch for Outstanding Faculty Service awards at the next FSSC meeting. The tentative date for the brunch is the morning of October 25th. Hopefully we will have Alter Hall as the brunch location as it was last year. Announcements requesting award recipient information from each college will be going out soon.

4. Vice-President’s Report:
Vice President of the Faculty Senate, Mark Rahdert (Law) reported on progress on committees. He indicated he will keep us informed of the need for certain vacancies to be filled. He reminded members that the process is that FSSC get resumes and statements of interest from candidates for vacancies and the FSSC reviews those to make decisions on appointed candidates and posting candidates for election to committees. To be on a Faculty Senate committee one must be a member of the Faculty Senate.

Mark discussed the Senate Personnel Committee. We have two candidates for that committee: Rafael Porrata-Doria from the Law School (Chair of the Budget Committee), and Lou Natali from the Law School (active on the college and university bargaining committee). We are able to hold a special election if necessary, but FSSC can appoint someone to fill someone’s unexpired term. Mark led the FSSC in a discussion about the number of vacancies on Personnel and to explore whether we are filling expired terms or needing to elect people for new three-year terms. Since we need to fill the Personnel committee vacancies soon, Mark will gather that data. It was suggested that we put out notice that there will be election by a certain date, solicit more volunteers, and if we end up with only two candidates appoint someone to fulfill expired term and hold an election for new committee positions.
Mark also discussed the Status of Women Committee. There is one faculty senator candidates --Mary Barbe (TUSM). It was moved, seconded, discussed and unanimously approved for Mary Barbe to be appointed to this committee.

We discussed the GEEC (General Education Executive Committee) vacancies. There are two volunteers for that committee. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously supported for Vallorie Peridier (Engineering) and Deborah Stull (CST) to be appointed on this committee.

The final committee discussed was RPPC (Research Programs and Policies Committee). This committee is without a chair. Mark is going to contact current members and ask them to convene and elect a new chair. But there will be vacancies on this committee. Provost Dai and Vice President Ken Blank have discussed these issues with Joan Shapiro and Mark over the summer and this may be an opportune time to have the committee rethink its role. Provost Dai is suggesting that money go to areas traditionally underfunded with external funding (e.g., arts, humanities). Ken Blank’s vision is to emphasize a policy emphasis and develop policy in terms of research through this committee. It was suggested that we consider the importance of this as a senate committee rather than an administrative service committee. It was suggested that we clarify with VP Blank what he means by policy concerns. There was general discussion about what is driving these issues and how they relate to broader issues of intellectual property, IRB, etc. This discussion raised several issues for FSSC members about the need to clarify research policy rules concerning when IRB review is needed for faculty and student related research.

After the committee discussions, two additional issues were raised. FSSC members asked about the Provost Search and when we would get updates on that process. And it was requested that we ask about the budget status.

5. Guest, Peter Jones, Sr. Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies:
President Joan Shapiro introduced Peter Jones by presenting a short summary of his impressive credentials. Peter gave an overview of programs in his current portfolio: ROTC, DUS, Continuing Studies, Honors, Writing Center, GenEd, Math Center, Course Matrix, SFF committee, Career Center, Alliance for Minority Participation (to mention some).

He explained his Vision and Goals. We need to focus on “access to excellence” but we need to focus on access “from” Temple -- graduation rates, placement in jobs, etc. He mentioned that we have a 34% 4 year and 67% 6-year graduation rate and we lose about 30% of students between freshman and sophomore year. The average amount of student debt for Temple undergraduates is $31,000. Other area universities do a better job of keeping their students and working to support them into jobs and supporting them after graduation. We also need to be supporting transfer students. We have 3400 freshman, 3700 transfer students every year.

He discussed some of our Current Efforts: We have developed and are using a Retention Risk model (cutting edge) so we can predict who will drop out Freshman Year. We know we need to focus on the top 2 categories of attrition risk and send this to school advising units. Advisors volunteered to sign up for this program. Advisors are committed to communicating with those students 5 times each year, 2 times in person. We’re already seeing significant impact. Now with Banner we can create a dynamic risk instrument that will utilize data as we move through the semester.

He also mentioned the Critical Paths program (CST is developmental college; SCT a year ago) that helps find critical markers that would identify a student who may be on track to 4 year graduation and (in absence of) at risk for not graduating. Critical Paths will track students over the fall and see if we can identify these students. We must have faculty involvement – handoff for faculty to advisors and vice versa must be much better. One idea is to create liaisons within each college among faculty willing to interact with this.

He also mentioned that we know risk factors associated with students who are failing to make grades and stay in the university. Some of the risk factors are students who work 20-30 hours, students whose father or mother did not
attend college, living off campus, signing up for only 12 hours, or respond on SFFs that they are expecting grades of C or less.

We discussed the online SFFs. He reported that this summer any faculty who got greater than 50% response rate on online SFFs was contacted to find out what they were doing well.

The Banner system allows us to put all scholarships offered around Temple in to a usable data base. There is a great deal of unused scholarship money (over 10 million) each year. David Unruh is taking as many as possible to “orphans court” to combine them.

We discussed the Alumni Base and ideas to get this more active. How does our alumni base connect with our current students? We are working with Institutional Advancement and pilot testing some ideas with Honors College. Deans Porat and Sitler have also asked to participate even before the Honors pilot program is complete.

This led to a suggestion that we need to keep a better track on our alumni. Several FSSC members mentioned that it is difficult to get information from Development and Alumni offices.

Finally, we discussed the Placement/ Professional Development Center. We need to look at what these centers are doing and how well they are operating and to learn best practices from other institutions.

6. Representative Senate Meeting:
This Monday, September 10th, 1:45-3pm, will be the first Representative Faculty Senate Meeting with guests President Englert, Provost Dai and Peter Jones.

7. Old/New Business:
Paul LaFollette gave a brief report on the Presidential Search Committee process.

Paul reminded us of Chair O’Connor’s suggestion for having a dinner with faculty and Board members. Paul was encouraged to invite Chair O’Connor to revisit this idea.

8. Adjournment:
Moved and seconded to adjourn at 3:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia S. Jones
Faculty Senate Secretary