Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Tuesday, September 18, 2012  
Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Tricia Jones (Secy.), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Leona Sperrazza (Dent.), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald)

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of the September 11, 2012 meeting were approved with one correction.

New Members:
President Shapiro introduced two new FSSC members: 1) Cheri Carter, representing the School of Social Work; 2) David Sonenshein, representing the Law School.

Vice President’s Report:
Vice President Rahdert reported on progress setting up the election for new members for the Senate Personnel Committee. The deadline for nominations is Thursday, September 20. The election itself will take place from Monday, September 24-Friday, September 28. As matters stand there are two candidates for two open positions. Rahdert noted that there will need to be another election later in the fall term to fill vacancies on EPPC, RPPC, and the University Sabbatical Committee.

Rahdert also presented several current committee members whose terms have expired but who have volunteered to serve a second term. Motions were approved to appoint the following individuals:

- Jan Kryzywicki (BCMD) – Lectures and Forums Committee
- Edward Latham (BCMD) – Student Awards Selection Committee
- Patrick Murphy – International Programs Committee
- Alicia Imperiale (Tyler) – International Programs Committee

President’s Report: President Shapiro reported on the following items:

Senate-Trustee Relations: Board of Trustees Chairman O’Connor will be having lunch in the near future with Shapiro and Past President Paul LaFollette. She noted that O’Connor was very impressed with the contributions to the Presidential Search Committee made by faculty representatives LaFollette and Luis Gonzalez del Valle. Their excellent work has helped to build a new level of respect between the faculty and the trustees. Shapiro wants to take this opportunity to build a closer working relationship between the Faculty Senate and the Trustees. FSSC members suggested other ways that we might be able to build closer connections, including
inviting trustees to visit our classes, and perhaps getting together for dinner once a year just to have a chance to get to know each other and share our commitment to Temple.

**Faculty Service Brunch:** When President Shapiro met recently with Provost Dai concerning the Faculty Senate budget, among the items they discussed was the budget for the Service Brunch. Last year the Provost office paid for the food, but the Senate paid for supplies and other expenses. This year, the Provost has generously offered to cover all expenses for the Service Brunch. Shapiro asked Michael Jackson to report on planning for the Brunch. The date has been set for October 30. The venue will be the 7th Floor of Alter Hall. The time will be 11 am to 1 pm. Invitees will include the President, Provost, FSSC members, Deans, the award recipients, and possibly the department chairs of the recipients’ departments. Due to time pressures, the format will remain the same as last year. After the event we can think about alternative program formats for 2013.

**Faculty Senate Website:** Shapiro reported that, while our new website is finally in operation, it needs updating as well as some troubleshooting adjustments. Associate Vice President for Finance Bill Wilkinson has offered technical assistance through his office to get the website completed and current. Thanks to his offer there should be no additional cost to us to get the website updated.

**Provost Retreat:** Provost Dai has stated that he does not want to hold a retreat with the FSSC this fall. He is open to the possibility of holding one in the spring.

**Arts Reorganization Subcommittee:** FSSC members from the various schools/division involved in the arts reorganization have volunteered to form the subcommittee that was authorized last week. Paul LaFollette will also participate in the subcommittee. There was some discussion about how the committee should function. A motion to have Doug Wager convene the committee was approved.

**Report on Spring 2012 FSSC Retreat:** Paul LaFollette summarized the discussions that occurred at the FSSC retreat that was held at his home in May. Discussion focused on two broad issues: faculty governance and faculty/administration trust. Participants saw the two issues as closely interrelated. There was discussion on a variety of topics, including retreats with the Provost and the Deans, the potential need for a faculty ombudsperson, concerns about commitments to service and governance among more junior faculty, and issues touching on academic freedom. There was consensus on a need to re-energize faculty governance, and to find ways of building a stronger sense of trust between faculty members and university administration.

**President Englert:** President Englert gave a report to the FSSC that touched on several developments at the University.

**Fundraising Campaign.** Plans are under way in connection with the recently announced $100 million fundraising campaign. The campaign is aimed to support student scholarships, with half the funds devoted to current support while the other half will be added to endowment to enable future support. Englert noted that the typical Temple student graduates with $32,000 in debt. Student debt at this level has long-term effects on students’ lives. FSSC members raised questions about what is being
done to provide “completion grants” in order to enable students who have reached a maximum debt level to finish their studies and graduate. Englert described some of the options that are available.

**Big East.** Englert stressed that membership in the Big East should be regarded as an opportunity going beyond athletics. It should enable Temple to forge connections with other universities in the conference, many of which enjoy high national reputations. Englert described the “Temple Made” branding campaign that has been planned to coincide with our entry into Big East football. He also described some of the plans for Homecoming over the weekend of October 6.

**Service Brunch.** Plans for the Service Brunch are moving forward. Englert is pleased that this event will occur again this year. He commended the work that Michael Jackson and others have contributed toward putting the plans together.

**Governor’s Advisory Committee.** Englert is serving on the Governor’s Advisory Committee on the future of higher education. He described the Commission’s membership and procedures. He expects that the Commission to deliver its report in mid-November. His concern is to make sure the report is a positive force both for higher education in the Commonwealth and for state-related universities in particular.

**President Theobald.** Englert is in daily email contact with incoming President Theobald. They also have long weekly telephone conversations. Englert reported that he is highly impressed with our new president, whom he believes will provide outstanding leadership for Temple.

**Dean Searches.** There are several vacant deanships at the university. Englert reported that these searches will be activated this semester, so that the searches will be actively under way when President Theobald takes office in January.

**Budget cuts.** In response to questions, Englert acknowledged a need for greater transparency and more advance information regarding budget cuts. Cuts were necessitated by the fact that the state’s appropriation remained static and tuition was not raised, while most budget items have continued to increase in cost. University-wide, $37 million in cuts were required to keep the budget balanced. Some of these cuts, notably the cancelling of shuttle service between Ambler and the Main Campus, have caused unfortunate dislocation that could have been reduced or avoided with better advance planning and communication.

**University Task Force.** The task force that was formed to make review the Report of Special Investigative Counsel (“Freh Report”) at Penn State has completed its work and submitted its report, which will be distributed to the university soon. The task force identified two urgent matters. The first was to impose a moratorium on allowing any minors to stay overnight at the University until proper policies and procedures can be put in place. The second was to ensure that all designated “campus security authorities” under the Cleary Act 1) be advised of their assignment as CSA’s and 2) be informed of their responsibilities under the Act. Englert acknowledged that the next step will be to inform the university community who the CSA’s are and what should be reported to them, so that reportable incidents can be transmitted to an appropriate individual.

**Distance Learning.** Englert was asked about the report by the task force on distance learning that was completed last year. He promised to look into its status.
Fox Chase. Englert commented on positive developments for the university resulting from the hospital’s merger with Fox Chase. Because Fox Chase is a major cancer research center, its combination with Temple will significantly augment our research profile. In response to questions Englert agreed that some integration of research functions will be required.

Faculty Workload Policy. Englert was asked whether the faculty workload policy adopted last year will continue in force or be subject to adjustment under the new president. He suggested that the FSSC should discuss this issue with the Provost. He also noted that there is a need for input from Deans on how the current workload policy is functioning.

Scheduling Matrix. Some FSSC members described continuing difficulties with scheduling caused by the matrix, especially for evening courses. Englert noted that there ought to be more flexibility in scheduling during evening hours. He will look into it.

20/20 Plan. Englert gave a quick update on campus construction. Pearson-McGonigle is complete, as is the Architecture building and the expansion of the football practice facility. The residence hall is on target to open next year. Foundation work is under way on the science research building. The parking garage is also under construction. Preliminary plans are being developed for the library/learning center.

Teaching Assistants and Adjuncts. FSSC members noted that restrictions on numbers of teaching assistants and the requirement to hire adjuncts instead is causing budgetary pressure, especially for units that have been asked to increase the number of GenEd offerings. In addition, graduate students who cannot find adequate funding at Temple are forced to look for adjunct positions elsewhere, which interrupts their focus and progress toward completing their degrees. Englert said he will look into these issues.

Old Business:
None.

New Business:
None.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Rahdert
Vice President