Representative Senate Meeting  
January 24, 2011  
Minutes

**Call to Order:**
The meeting was called to order at 1:47 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**
The minutes of November 10, 2010 were approved as written.

**President’s Report - Paul LaFollette:**
The ad-hoc committee has finished its first draft of the new T & P Guidelines which has been posted online. President Hart has asked that faculty email her their comments and suggestions. Subsequently the T & P Guidelines Committee will meet to consider these suggestions and how they might or might not be incorporated.

On February 15th, a group of students will be going to Harrisburg to present a petition to the legislature. Faculty are encouraged to sign it if they wish to do so.

**Vice-President’s Report - Joan Shapiro:**
A list of vacancies for the elected and appointed committees has been provided by Cheryl Mack. There will be an election beginning March 28th for the elected committees. Please encourage others to apply or self-nominate for both types of committees. A statement of interest and CV should be sent to Senate2@temple.edu.

The nominating committee of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for 2011 officers will consist of Senators Michael Jackson, Joan Delalic and Luke Kahlich.

**President’s Report-Paul LaFollette:**
President LaFollette opened the floor for comments and questions regarding the budget review being conducted by the Huron Group.

A question was posed regarding the make-up the committee meeting with the Huron Group. Provost Dick Englert answered this question by saying that 1/3 of persons selected are outside of the Provost's Portfolio and 1/3 are from the Provost's Portfolio, but do not have faculty rank. The final 1/3 of the people on the committee are those with faculty rank including those who are academic administrators.

Tony Wagner said how much he has enjoyed working with Leroy Dubeck and says he brings a lot to the table and Tony Wagner said that he looks forward to Professor Dubeck's input.

President LaFollette asked how much information is actually shared with Senator Dubeck. VP Wagner responded that all of the public information is shared with him.

Senate Secretary Roberta Sloan commented that very few faculty without administrative rank are included on the committee. VP Englert responded that the Town Hall is the forum for faculty to comment and respond.

Senator Art Hochner, President of TAUP, stated that there is much information regarding the budget that has not been shared with faculty and in order for faculty to make an informed decision, much information would be very useful. However, in the past, when he has asked for some information, he has been told that Temple is not required to share that information. There are a number of questions that Senator Hochner has posed which he would like answered.
He further continued that the teaching and research missions of the university should be uppermost in the discussions and deliberations. He feels that we need more information in order for faculty to participate in the process. He would like to see a partnership in these deliberations.

VP Tony Wagner responded that 16-17% of Temple funding comes from the Commonwealth so although this is very significant, if we take a cut it will be on 16-17% of our budget. As a result, VP Wagner does not feel that this is potentially as dire as it could be. If we take a $20M cut from the state that would be 2% of our budget. He feels that this is a testimony to how well things have been organized in the past.

Professor Philip Yannella (CLA) has been studying the budget at Temple, and at two other universities for studies he has been doing. He passed out a very interesting one page summarization of some interesting facts. He believes that the amount of the president’s and provost’s budget is very large as compared to the faculty budget.

He believes that the university budget should be sent out as a PDF to all faculty and staff.

Tony Wagner responded that the university budget is just over $1B. He said that much of the budget is for set costs. He says that Standard and Poor’s, and Moody’s do a strict analysis of the budget every year and that Temple fares satisfactorily. With the new dorm, the fees for the rooms and food service will cover the debt to build the facility. VP Wagner says that there is an operating margin that is important to have at various times. Temple has a credit rating. Temple is not a wealthy university. We are less expensive in tuition than Penn State and Pitt, so we compare favorably in this way.

Senator Deborah Howe asked Tony Wagner how one avoids a self-fulfilling prophecy by mentioning 30% cut being a possibility. She feels that the big concern is not what happens now, but what happens after March 8th when the Huron Group leaves? More than anything else, we want to be part of the dialogue and we do not want to have things imposed on us.

VP Englert said that under Ken Lawrence a number of things are going on towards influence in Harrisburg so that there will be fewer cuts, with the goal being none. On March 9th, we’ll have a good sense of what the problems will be and that creates the dynamic of moving forward.

Senator Greg Urwin (CLA) mentioned that the email addresses of the Huron Group are sfreedman@hurongroup.com and wjenkins@huronconsultinggroup.com Even if not on the committee of 90, there is still the opportunity to voice concerns.

VP Englert said how lucky Temple is to have someone like Tony Wagner and his group to tussle with these issues.

Guest – Leroy Dubeck, Chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee

Two simultaneous issues; the university will no doubt receive a cut, and also it is important to look at the Health Sciences operation. The basic problem that we have in our health system is the inordinate number of Medicaid payments. For the last two years, the Health Sciences Center has lost money; they have gone down for about $5M a year which looks like it will be more this year and even worse next year.

They are not separate from Temple. There are funds that go back and forth between the main university and the Health Sciences Complex. The Medical School is included in the main budget. This is not a trivial issue.

VP Wagner mentioned that Senator Dubeck has an extremely good understanding of all of the numbers at the university including the health system and Temple University at large. They are staffed and budgeted for a Trauma I Medical Center. Since a tremendous number of people are on Medicaid, the payment is a fraction of the costs. There is a high level of concern and lot of action that is being taken to try to ameliorate the situation. VP Wagner said that he believes that it will break even. Part of the on-going strategy has been to spend money on equipment that will attract patients who might use them and who can pay for their health care.
Professor Dubeck says that $2.5 billion might be the problem at the state legislature, so you either raise taxes or cut the budget. There is little chance of raising taxes. If there is a 10% cut, Senator Dubeck feels that Higher Education might experience higher than 10% of the cuts. It would be a surprise if what the governor recommends actually is what happens, because the legislature gets involved. He feels that the faculty and students have to push back against the recommendations.

At other institutions, buy-outs have been offered to faculty. This is voluntary. At Texas A & M, 400 faculty members took advantage of this opportunity. This is obviously a great savings to the university because then others can be hired for less. At other places, tuition has been increased and faculty workloads have been increased.

Across the country, universities have raised tuition, used reserves, and/or cut expenditures.

On March 8th, the governor makes his announcement and then the legislature begins debate.

VP Englert says that we need to look at this as a multi-year rather than one-year issue.

VP Wagner says that the way the university has positioned itself means that we will be better than draconian cut. We are looking at a multi-year strategy. He wants this process to be looking towards the future and what will happen in succeeding years. This process is a multi-year program strategy about how we get to the right place and gain our momentum.

VP Wager says that we should all be at our battle stations with a high degree of vigilance. If we have a vision for a bright future for Temple, we are going to be able to make that vision happen.

Professor Dubeck disagrees in that he feels this is a major and significant problem until we know what the governor will do and what will happen at the Health Sciences Center.

VP Joan Shapiro mentioned to the Huron Group and wishes to mention it again that now we are thinking about the five and ten year plan. She likened it back to the Academic Strategic Compass. We need to lobby and do what we can, and relate it to the compass. She encourages everyone to take a look at the compass and see how this financial situation will impact that.

VP Englert reiterated what VP Shapiro just stated. He feels that the Academic Compass must be emphasized. We have to think in terms of multi year and in terms of positioning ourselves for a new and better future. We still have the ability to control our own destiny.

Roberta Sloan made an announcement about the Arts Reception.

**Old and New Business:**

There being no old and new business, there was a call for adjournment.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Sloan, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary