Representative Senate Meeting  
February 15, 2011  
Minutes

Call to Order:  
The meeting was called to order at 1:49pm.

Approval of Minutes:  
The minutes of January 24, 2011 were approved as written.

President Paul LaFollette introduced President Ann Hart:

President Ann Hart gave a report on the contingent of students who accompanied Ken Lawrence for a rally in Harrisburg. She said our students were respectful and eloquent. She said that we should be really proud of our students. We had the largest contingent of students in Harrisburg of any university. Ken Lawrence meets regularly with student leaders and this helps our students to become citizens working towards the greater good of Temple University.

Penn State’s tuition is now 35% more expensive than that of Temple University. President Hart is concerned that there is a rumor floating about that all of the state funding to commonwealth universities will be cut by the state government. This would have far reaching disastrous effects for Temple.

President Hart said that the university will work closely with the governor’s office to try to impact the budget. Apparently, the budget will be a surprise in its final form on March 8th. After the announcement, the whole Temple Government Team and President Hart plan to spend quite a bit of time in Harrisburg with the goal of preserving as much of the appropriation allotted to Temple as possible. The 7.7 million dollars of Stimulus money has gone away. President Hart said that the budget is going to be very "painful" and so the new administration in Harrisburg is promising an on-time budget, perhaps to limit discussion and changes. She said that now is the time to advocate rather than wait until the appropriation is announced.

Temple is working hard with Senator Casey and will meet with Senator Toomey to pass the bill that will help hospitals such as Temple Hospital, which serves so many of the Philadelphians who do not have insurance and depend upon Medicaid.

Changes are being made at the Health Sciences Center in order to try to improve what is done at the hospitals. Some of the changes are going to be tough, but this is happening all over the nation to academic health centers and health care providers. She said that the university is working very hard to make improvements.

President Hart reviewed the process of how the new Health Sciences CEO and the Dean of the Medical School positions were combined. She said that our health sciences are poorly integrated with the medical school and at this time, with this new position combining the Health Sciences Center and the Medical School will, hopefully, greatly improve the situation. She wants the Health Sciences operation to be transparent and effective.

Professor Art Hochner (Fox School of Business and President of TAUP) came to the microphone and said that he spent yesterday in Harrisburg, speaking with the appropriation committee members and other committees members. He feels that the basic message that needs to be communicated is that an appropriation cut will have a negative impact on our students. He said that an increase in tuition would be the likely result of a large cut back in appropriations and that would be extremely detrimental to the students and their families.

Professor Hochner said that at this time, no one seems to know what is happening in the governor’s office. He feels that some information might be leaked to the Republican side of the house before March 8th. He’s heard that the governor is taking a very hard stance on “no raising of taxes,” so we
might need to prepare for a lot of difficulties. We have a lot to protect, primarily our students and the jobs of many Temple Employees, so he urges faculty, staff and students to take action.

President Hart feels that if arms are linked and we all move forward together, it will have a positive effect. There is a lot of support for higher education, but there seems to be a large “but” that comes after that sentence. President Hart thanked everyone for the support they have shown.

President’s Report – Paul LaFollette:

President LaFollette wished to speak about what the FSSC has been doing lately.

He began his remarks by saying that while the FSSC certainly appreciates the work of Senior Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs and Development, Diane Maleson, on her revision of the bylaws. However, the FSSC had some difficulties with the draft that she presented at the FSSC/Provost retreat. A subcommittee of the FSSC has produced a document entitled, “Guiding Principles for Collegial Assembly Bylaws” which will be posted online, and was passed out at the meeting.

At the last session, the FSSC passed three motions which were also passed out. These had previously been given to Vice President and Provost, Richard Englert, for his response. President LaFollette then turned the meeting over to Englert to respond directly to the motions that were passed.

Dialogue with Dick: Report from Vice President and Provost, Richard Englert:

VP Englert announced that former provost Barbara Brownstein just passed away. She was from the biology department. He feels that she was a terrific colleague and a wonderful provost. She retired in 1995 and moved to the West Coast. There will be some kind of memorial for her in March, in Philadelphia. He asked for a few moments of silence in her memory.

VP Englert spoke to the students who were leaving for Harrisburg this morning and asked each if they had spoken to their professors about getting excused absences. He thanked the faculty for understanding the need for the students to go to Harrisburg.

A CD from Temple was nominated for a Grammy. It did not win, but even being nominated was quite a success. Congrats to Fox School named # 1 for the publication of their two journals.

Dr. Larry Alford has been named the head of the University of the Toronto Library, which is one of the premier libraries in North America, if not beyond. He praised Dean Alford’s contributions to Temple.

The 20/20 plan for the Health Sciences has already kicked off. That initiative will go on for eight to nine months and many aspects will be looked at very carefully.

He then turned to the three motions that had been passed by the FSSC. He announced that he had said “yes” to two of the motions, however, he said “no” to the third.

Referring to the request that the university budget be put online, VP Englert does not feel it is in “our best interest” to have detailed budget items floating around. He does not feel that it is a good idea to make it public. It is in the library. He stated that the approved university budget is online. The financial statement that the university issue is online. He also stated the “the response” that Temple University prepares for the legislature, which is required to be filed and contains certain financial information, is also online. He stated that all of this is “in context.” He feels that taking individual lines out of context is a dangerous idea.

He pledged that he and Tony Wagner will meet regularly with the Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee throughout the budgetary process. He stated that often there is limited trust and rampant rumors when there is anticipation of funding cuts. He feels that putting the budget online gives people the possibility of criticizing it out of context.

He thanked Art Hochner for his work with TALON.
Professor Art Hochner, President of TAUP, pointed out that everything on the website regarding the budget is completely out of date. The online budget is the one developed for 2009-2010. He added that the information reported to the state legislature, which is online, is also outdated. He stated that "everything online is outdated" except for the budget statement of the university year which ended in 2010.

Professor Hochner pointed out that he felt that the budget should be widely available throughout the university and that it can be protected by a password. He feels that there is a lot that we need to know. He is not worried about people finding out about the budget because it is often available in other states. He feels it should not be restricted to one copy in the library. In his opinion, the Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee does not communicate enough with the faculty at large and often gives information only in broad terms. He feels that there is a lot of information that needs to be brought to light. In the current budget there is an accumulated surplus of $175 million dollars in the operating budget. We should all have the answers as to where the money is. He does not feel class sizes should be increased or that the numbers of adjuncts need to be increased. He believes that there are other areas where cuts can be made, if necessary.

VP and Provost Englert said he was unaware that the documents online were out of date. He will check and make sure they will be updated.

Professor Bob Aiken (CST) wondered if a compromise could be worked out on the availability of the budget document in the library. He suggested that the FSSC should be given a copy and perhaps some other units should have copies as well. He suggested a compromise might be amenable to all concerned. His second point was that since budget matters are ultimately going to be revealed, it might be a good idea that these points, particularly the ones that are time sensitive should be shared with the FSSC. He stated that he feels that there will be issues that will need an immediate response from the faculty that can be facilitated through the FSSC. He feels that transparency and collaboration would be served by using this methodology during these difficult times.

Senator Deborah Howe (SED) said that the reality is that someone can scan the document in the library and make it available online. She suggested that the university do this instead.

Professor Marina Angel (Law School) said that she is a great believer in sunshine laws. Apparently there is an exception for Temple and some other universities. She feels that there is no reason not to make the budget available. She mentioned that most states have complete openness on university budgets. She asked if it is the administration's perception that "we are infants and don't know how to deal with information." She stated that she feels VP Englert’s arguments don't hold up.

VP Englert said that he will take these comments under advisement. He says he "hears what is being said," and believes the Faculty Senate has heard what he has said and thanked everyone for their attention.

Philip Yanella (CLA) then spoke to VP Englert and those present at the Representative Faculty Senate meeting. He stated that he has a scanned copy of the budget. He added that the budget details are not on the website. He pointed out an item under the President's budget – 2.4 million for "other general expenses" which include food and entertainment. He stated that he does not feel that Temple faces a budget crisis. He feels, after examining the budget in detail, that there is $60 million dollars available.

VP Englert says that he feels it is important to look at the line items in context. He says that budgets are best understood in context.

Professor Yanella asked "what is the context for team holiday expenses?" VP Englert responded that taking items out of context is not the best way to approach the budget situation. He said that he respects the fact that Professor Yanella is analyzing the budget and looking at it carefully. VP Englert does not want faculty "to jump to conclusions."

VP Englert said that he is always willing to come to meetings and have conversations.
**Vice-President’s Report – Joan Shapiro:**

Cheryl Mack has attached the committee vacancies list to the material passed out at the Representative Faculty Meeting. VP Shapiro requested that everyone try to contact faculty members to apply for open positions. All that is needed is a “Statement of Interest” and a CV. There are both elected positions to be filled and also committee vacancies that are appointed after applications are received. Of immediate need are committee members for the “Student Awards Selection Committee.” An election will begin March 28th. FSSC members Joan Delalic (Engineering), Luke Kahlich (BCMD), and Michael Jackson (STHM) are on the FSSC nominating committee.

**President LaFollette:**

President LaFollette invited comments about the university matrix. Senator Jim Korsh (CST) said that in his department, the 1 hour 20 minutes format, twice a week, is the best way to present material and that is only allowable in the matrix on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He feels that the matrix does not allow for the needs of some classroom information delivery.

Chris Cagle (SCT) said, for pedagogical reasons, many arts departments demand non-traditional time slots. He feels that the matrix has forced departments into formats that have sometimes not met the needs of the students and their departments.

Senior Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies Peter Jones stated that he needs for faculty and departments to work with the matrix as it now exists. He believes that veering away from the matrix has a negative impact on time-to-graduation rates. He stated that at the present time, Temple has a 38% four-year graduation rate and a 68% six-year graduation rate. He believes that being off matrix is part of the problem. He stated that before the matrix was required, many students were unable to put together semesters of sufficient credits to graduate in time. He stated that half of the courses are off-matrix and that number is way too high. He continued that Temple has 25 years of off matrix requests. These have accumulated. He stated that there are significant variations between colleges and schools. He asked that colleges and schools really look at courses and see how many really need to be off-matrix. He stated that changes don’t need to be draconian but we should try to improve graduation rates. We should make it possible for students to take 15-18 credits. He asked the faculty to look at the matrix in terms giving students “a chance.”

A faculty member from SCT stated that the while concept of “Inquiring Learning,” takes an “amazing” amount of time. As a result, the concept of 45 or 50 minutes, strictly because it is more convenient, does not make sense. He was shocked that all of a sudden, with no notice, he had to restructure his courses. He asked “why can’t the faculty be involved in a major pedagogical change?”

Professor Eugene Kwatny (CST) stated that he feels that the one and one half hour class format is best. He also spoke of the classes associated with labs that were 2 hours. He said that all of this made it hard to schedule students. But he said we need to take a serious look at how we do schedule students and how we implement that schedule with approval at all levels. He argued that there needs to be a simpler process.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Sloan, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary