Representative Faculty Senate Meeting  
April 11, 2012  
Minutes

Attendance:

  Representative Senators and Officers: 38  
  Ex officio: 1  
  Faculty, Administrators and Guests: 13  
  Total Attendance: 52

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:52 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 16, 2012 Representative Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

3. President’s Report

President LaFollette reported that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee (FSSC) has been at work on a variety of matters, including the proposed workload policy and the Provost’s various reorganization proposals. The FSSC is in the process of creating written responses that it will be submitting to the President and Provost. These responses will also be sent out to the Faculty Senate once they have been submitted. Among other things, the FSSC has adopted a resolution accepting the Provost’s invitation to undertake further review of Faculty Senate structures and process, as well as other aspects of faculty governance.

LaFollette mentioned that some FSSC members volunteered to participate in an exercise of keeping track of hours spent on different activities over the course of a week. The results can be quite interesting. For example, they can show how much time is occupied simply by reading and responding to email on a regular basis. LaFollette suggested that other faculty members might want to try this exercise on their own.

Faculty members who are filing responses with the Provost and/or President regarding faculty workload or reorganization issues may, if they wish, send their comments to President LaFollette at senate2@temple.edu. He will compile the comments he receives and distribute them, without attribution, through the Faculty Senate listserv.

4. Vice President’s Report

Vice President Shapiro noted that, while elections for elected committee vacancies have just been completed, there are still many appointed committees with vacancies, so we still
need volunteers. Interested individuals should send their statements of interest and CVs or biographical statements to senate2@temple.edu. There are still some elected committee vacancies as well, so we will probably need to have another election in the fall to fill those positions.

The time of year for final committee reports has come. Shapiro has written to committee chairs requesting final reports, which need not be long. Synopses of the reports will be published in the Faculty Herald so that the activities of the committees can be shared with the rest of the Temple community.

Shapiro asked Karen Turner (SCT) to report on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Turner posted the results of the Faculty Senate elections. She was pleased that many faculty members took the time to vote, even though the Senate officer positions were uncontested. Joan Shapiro (COE) was elected Faculty Senate president. Mark Rahdert (Law) was elected Vice President. Tricia Jones (COE) was elected Secretary.

There were also committee elections, some of them contested. Jill Swavely (COE) was elected to EPPC; Jennifer Cromley (COE) was elected to RPPC; Michael Boufadel (Engineering), Richard Hricko (Tyler), Nicholas Kripal (Tyler), and Douglas Wager (SCT) were elected to the University Tenure and Promotions Advisory Committee.

Turner thanked all the candidates, both those who were elected and those who were not, for being willing to give so much of their time. Shapiro, in turn, thanked the members of the Nominating Committee – Turner, Michael Jackson (STHM), and Joan Delalic (Engineering) – for their work establishing a slate of candidates and supervising the election.

Shapiro asked Frank Friedman (CST) to report on the search for a Faculty Herald Editor. The new Editor is Steven Newman (CLA). Friedman thanked the members of the editorial board and the Senate for identifying several excellent candidates. The Board is very pleased that Professor Newman has accepted this assignment.

5. Travel Policy

University Controller Frank Annunziato, assisted by Lydia Vazquez, Assistant Director of Accounts Payable, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the new University travel system, which should be in operation by September 2012. The University has selected a web-based system known as Concur. The system is in use by many other institutions, including many universities.

Concur has several advantages. It allows on-line booking for air, rail, auto, and hotel reservations and ticketing. It is price-competitive with on-line travel services such as Expedia and Travelocity, but with more carriers represented. It has low-fare-finder software comparable to that used by other on-line services. And it will reduce paperwork and time spent getting approvals by converting bookings directly to expense reports and routing them to authorizing supervisors. The University will also continue its
relationship with World Travel, and there will continue to be booking fees, but at a lower rate (an $11 base, down from $35-50), in return for which World Travel will provide access to its 24-hour concierge service.

Eventually, the system should be almost completely paperless, with bookings converting directly to expense reports that are automatically routed for necessary approvals. The aim is to have all travel handled through this system by January 2013, at which point traditional paper expense reports will be eliminated and use of the on-line system will become mandatory. Once the system is fully implemented, it will assist the University in keeping track of travel patterns and needs, which should enable the University to have greater negotiating potential with respect to some travel services.

In a question-and-answer period after the presentation, the following items were raised:

• How will travel with airlines that do not participate in on-line services (such as many lower-price airlines in Europe) be handled? Annunziato responded that there are some airlines, such as Southwest, that cannot be accessed through Expedia or Travelocity but that are available on Concur. As to airlines such as the low-cost ones in Europe, if they are not available on Concur there will still be backup capability to reserve and book through World Travel. That will, however, generate a higher ($35) booking fee.

• What if the lowest fare is a flight that departs at an extreme hour? Will we be required to use it? Annunziato explained that Concur will not prevent booking on any flight, but it will provide a warning that the flight is not the lowest rate. It is then up to the individual to determine whether or not booking for that flight is still justified.

• How will conference registration fees and the like be handled? Receipts for other expense items such as conference registrations can be scanned and then uploaded to the expense reporting system. There will also be a phone “app” that will allow one to take a photo of a receipt and upload it.

• Why is it still necessary to book through a travel agency (thus incurring an additional fee) rather than booking directly through a travel provider? Annunziato replied that the agency helps the university keep track of over $2.7 million a year in travel and over 1700 annual travel requests.

• What pieces of the process are handled by Concur, what pieces by World Travel, and what does World Travel do to justify its fee? Annunziato replied that the reservation and reporting functions are handled by Concur. World Travel gets its fee for booking and ticketing. The University administration believes this helps keep travel expenses down. Several faculty members questioned whether the fees for World Travel are either truly necessary or justified.
What if an individual already knows what the cheapest fee is and wants to book it directly with the airline, saving the ticketing fee? Annunziato replied that direct booking would require one to get an exception, which would take time and ultimately might not be worth the effort. He asserted that it should save the University money in the long run to have all travel run through this system.

Annunziato invited faculty members with any additional questions to contact him directly.

6. Provost Report

Provost Richard Englert reported on several recent Temple accomplishments:

- Ann Preston, a student majoring in GUS and environmental studies, won both a Truman and a Udall scholarship. Given how competitive each award is, to win both is truly amazing.
- The Library recently acquired an extensive collection of broadcasting materials from broadcasting pioneer Lewis Klein.
- The Theater Department put on a very successful production of *A Chorus Line*. One of the highlights was a chance for cast members to work with an original Broadway cast member.
- BCMD put on a very successful orchestra and chorale concert at the Kimmel Center, as well as a superb jazz band concert at the Franklin Institute, which was accompanied by an interesting documentary on women in Jazz during the first half of the twentieth century.
- Dentistry is to be congratulated for its Kornberg scholarship program, generously funded by the Abramson family.
- Several Schools, Colleges and programs posted high and/or improved US News rankings, including Law, Tyler, FSBM, Medicine, Engineering, Social Work, Pharmacy, Speech-language pathology, Clinical psychology, and Occupational Therapy.
- Students did an excellent job representing Temple in Harrisburg. In addition to an advocacy day, they also displayed research posters, and conducted and art and athletics day. This year’s student government leaders have been outstanding.
- Finally, on April 12 there will be a Temple Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Symposium (TURF-CreWS) in the Student Center.

7. Athletics
Several representatives came to the meeting to give a presentation on athletics at Temple. The group was introduced by Eleanor Myers (Law), Temple’s NCAA representative. Presenting for the group were Athletic Director William Bradshaw and Head Football Coach Steve Addazio. Also present were Senior Associate Athletic Directors Kristen Foley, Sherryata Freeman, and Joe Giunta, as well as Director of Academic Advising Justin Miller. The principal presentations primarily focused on Temple’s pending move into the Big East conference.

Bradshaw reported that Temple will join the Big East (BE) in football beginning in the fall of 2012, when it will be competing against Cincinnati, Connecticut, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, South Florida, and Syracuse. Temple will join the BE in all sports in 2013. In 2013 and 2014, the football lineup will change, with Pitt and Syracuse leaving the BE. Several other schools, however, will join the conference, including Houston, Memphis, UCF and SMU in all sports, and Boise State and San Diego State in football only. In 2015, Navy will join the BE in football only. By 2013, there will be 10 schools in all sports, and 12 in football, while by 2015 the football conference will grow to 13.

The move to the Big East will bring in revenue, increase national TV exposure, expand and upgrade bowl opportunities, and bring teams from some of the top schools in the country to our campus. It is also a major branding opportunity for the University.

Addazio introduced himself to the Senate and stressed the importance of a strong and supportive mutual relationship between the athletics staff and the faculty. He believes that it is essential for student athletes to be full participants in all educational and cultural opportunities at Temple. In Addazio’s view, the most successful athletic programs are always based on a common shared understanding and purpose among athletic players, coaches, faculty, administration, and students. He tries to set high expectations for his players as athletes, students, and community citizens. He also believes in working closely with athletes’ families, to make sure they are fully on board and fully supportive of all the responsibilities that student athletes must meet.

Addazio briefly described Temple’s support system for student athletes. It involves weekly staff meetings at which each player’s status and progress is individually discussed. Standards and expectations are set clearly at the outset. There is constant monitoring to make sure that players are meeting their responsibilities in class as well as in practice and on the field. Advising goes beyond academics to make sure student athletes get the full value of their educational experience. Addazio believes higher education is a major “slice” of one’s life that continues to affect personal development long after college is over. He wants his athletes to have that entire experience.

In a brief question-and-answer session, the Athletics representatives were asked about graduation rates. There is an array of different measures that are being used, and they fluctuate. In terms of overall graduation, the rate for football is about 62%, which is fairly close to the overall student graduation rate. Another important measure is the “APR,” which is predictive of future graduation. That number is very high for Temple
The support staff constantly monitors the numbers and works steadily toward improving them.

8. Old Business

President LaFollette was asked about the status of the Presidential search. He answered that it is continuing. He reminded Senate members that he is not at liberty to give further information.

9. New Business

One Senate member observed that there has been a noticeable drop in the amount of public relations space given in Temple Times and other university publications to faculty activities, coupled by a large increase in the amount of administrative press releases. This may be detrimental to the University. There should be a better balance. While faculty activities are not the sole important developments, they are significant and it is a mistake to downplay or ignore them. The same goes with display of faculty publications at Temple’s bookstores. Other institutions have prominent displays of faculty publications, and we have practically none.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Rahdert
Secretary