Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting  
January 18, 2011  
Minutes

Present:
Paul S. LaFollette (Pres.), Joan Shapiro (V. Pres.), Roberta Sloan (Secy.), Joan Delalic (Engr.), Don Harris (Law), Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Luke Kahlich (BCMD), Jim Korsh (CST), Laurie MacPhail (Dent.), Mark C. Rahdert (Law), Charles Ruchalski (Pharm.). Douglas C. Wager (SCT), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent:
Karen Turner (Past President) on leave, Tricia S. Jones (Educ.) on leave, Nora Alter (SCT) on leave, Adam Davey (CHPSW), Margaret Devinney (CLA), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald), Charles Jungreis (Med.), Stephanie Knopp (Tyler), Jay Sinha (FSBM)

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes from the last Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting of December 7, 2010 were approved.

President’s Report – Paul S. LaFollette:
President LaFollette asked everyone to reintroduce themselves. The new one-semester representative from the Law School was introduced by Senator Mark Rahdert. He is Acting Senator Don Harris whose area of expertise is Intellectual Property.

President LaFollette has met with both the president and provost prior to this meeting. They have asked for the FSSC to recommend four names to work with the Huron Group that will be looking at Temple’s financial picture.

President LaFollette reported that President Hart is forming a committee to look at the content and style of the Temple Websites. Suggestions were requested for the names of faculty members who might wish to serve on this committee. Michael Borenstein was suggested from the School of Pharmacy. Stephanie Knopp will be asked for her input. President LaFollette asked Michael Jackson if he would be interested in serving. Laurie McPhail suggested Chip Jungreis as a possible member of the committee.

The FSSC was also asked to name four members to the committee that will be meeting with the Huron Group. Senator Mark Rahdert moved that President LaFollette be authorized to choose the faculty for the four slots, and it was seconded by several people. The motion passed.

Guests – Members of the Budget Review Committee led by Leroy Dubeck, Professor of Physics, and Chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee.

Senator Dubeck was asked to appear before the Steering Committee to discuss budgeting. He explained his background including his impressive budgetary expertise, which has included experience, research and books on the subject. He said that there will be a shortfall in the 2011-2012 State of Pennsylvania Budget of between 2–5 billion dollars. The pension plan in PA is underfunded. Professor Dubeck said that there are other threats that he anticipates which will directly affect the Temple University budget. These include:

Threat # 1 – Cut to funding to university
Threat # 2 – Cut to Temple University Health System

The university has been losing around $50M per year. Professor Dubeck said that he does not know the amount of “hit” the university will experience. He reported that Temple has lost money for two years and
will lose money again this year. In all probability, we will lose money next year. How bad "dollar-wise" this might be, it is hard to know.

He suggested that very bad budgetary news is expected from the governor’s office. Once the bad budget news comes out, then the political fight will take place and Temple will try to reduce the reduction that is anticipated. He mentioned that the faculty, students and alumni can have an impact.

Last year, the effort to influence Senator Specter, by letters and email, to get him to change his vote was very effective, and because of this Temple University “dodged the bullet” for this fiscal year. Senator Specter’s vote reversal virtually “saved” Temple last year.

With the Republicans in charge of the house, senate and governor’s mansion, there is doubt that there will be a tax increase. There is little that can be done before March 7th when the budget comes out. Numbers can impact outcomes. Students must be mobilized. He believes we will get a hit and it will not be a pretty picture. If we get a 10% cut, that might not be too big, however Vice-President, CFO and Treasurer, Tony Wagner believes there will be between a 20 to 30% cut. The Huron Group has been hired to do a “financial analysis blitz.” They are analyzing the university and the medical school, but not the health sciences system.

Huron Group has not, previously, analyzed any university with a bargaining unit. Professor Dubec believes that one recommendation will be “increase the productivity of the faculty,” and that there could be a hiring freeze. He also mentioned that there might be offers for early retirement packages. He said that he thinks this is possibly the worst crisis since 1965 when Professor Dubec joined the faculty.

President LaFollette asked Professor Dubec to come to the next Representative Faculty Senate Meeting. President LaFollette also intends to invite VP Wagner. There is little question that everyone agrees on the problem, but not necessarily on the best solutions.

Professor Rafael Porrata-Doria (Law), another member of the Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee added some comments. He has quite a bit of information about health care funding. One school of thought is that the health sciences center is separate from the university. Another school of thought is that the two are so intertwined that a catastrophe in the health center will bring the university down. Professor Porrata-Doria feels that the real situation is somewhere in between. This intertwining is very complex financially. If there is a crisis in the health care system, since the medical school is so locked in, it will have a great impact on the university as a whole. There are some real systemic issues connected with the Health Sciences Center. The Health Sciences Center has no control on many of its sources of revenue. How will the new health care bill impact the health center on the short, medium and long-term effect? This is not yet clear. A debacle of the Health Sciences Center will have a strong effect on the university.

One senator mentioned that when the university hires the Huron Group to make recommendations, the outcome of the recommendations are already decided and a group like this one is just used to justify what the university has already decided to do. It was added that these types of analytical groups are rarely hired without a recommended list of actions already in mind. It was thought that the Huron Group is going to more efficiency in faculty, which might result in an increase in class sizes and an increase in workloads. Since the least expensive faculty are the part-time workers and the NTT’s, this is where any “first cuts” might be anticipated. Since deans approve individual work loads, there will be an anticipated internal struggle with the deans. It will be different for each college and school. Some deans will want to increase workload. Some deans will want to reduce the part-time hires. It is possible that the university might try to renegotiate contracts with the various unions on campus. That would only come if there is a really big cut. However, pressure on the unions might very well be anticipated. If it is a 30% cut, furloughs might be a possibility. There is little doubt that tuition might increase 4-5%.

It was mentioned that although buildings may have been approved, and are financed through state bonds, they have to be enacted into law by the legislature. Therefore, some of the anticipated buildings in the 20-20 plan might not happen as planned. This does not include the new dorms that are going up because they will be self-paid. Once buildings that are not self-paid are up, however, the costs of heating, air-conditioning, maintenance, etc., are significant. New buildings mean a heavy burden in operating expenses.
It was mentioned that the financial exigencies at Temple has not seemed to limit the number of new administrators who seem to be hired or named with regularity.

Other members of the Budget Review Committee who came to the meeting were Bruce Rader, Steve Balsam and Joel Sheffield.

President LaFollette feels it is important to advertise the fact that the town hall meeting and the Representative Faculty Meeting, both scheduled for Monday, January 24th will have as their topics of discussion. These forums will give the faculty the opportunity for interaction on these topics.

One senator mentioned the feeling that there seems to be a half-hearted attempt to involve the faculty with the Huron Group, since the very vast majority of people with whom they are meeting are mostly administrators.

Professor Susan Varnum and Professor Tom Marino have been named part-time Presidential Faculty Fellows.

President LaFollette asked the senators to encourage faculty to send their comments to the email address given by President Hart to respond to the new T & P Guidelines that have been distributed through email. This must be done by January 31st.

There is a Faculty Senate Steering Committee subcommittee in the process of working on the bylaws and this body will have a report for us in a relatively short time.

**Vice-President Report – Joan P. Shapiro:**

Vice President Shapiro asked for recommendations for the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee. Senator Joan Delalic (Engr.), and Senator Luke Kahlich (BCMD) were nominated, seconded and elected. It was decided to ask past president Karen Turner to serve, even though she is on leave this semester. If she declines, then Senator Michael Jackson (STHM), was elected to serve instead.

**Old/New Business:**

Senator Jackson reported to the FSSC on the Service Brunch that had been suggested and approved by former Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico. The template was for a brunch to recognize full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty for their services to the university. However, the university only gave Senator Jackson a budget of $3,800 for the brunch and then said that they wished to have a lunch instead. Senator Jackson (with the agreement of the rest of the FSSC) said that $3,000 is a very unrealistic budget for this event. Also Senator Jackson was told that this project will no longer be under the FSSC’s portfolio, but is being usurped by the Provost’s Office. The original date for the event was to be March 3rd, but this seems very unrealistic. Also, the original venue of Mitten Hall has been changed to an area in the Fox School. Professor Jackson said that he doubts that the event will take place this semester. However, the FSSC has been asked to look at criteria for selection and to make suggestions.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Sloan, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary