Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting  
September 14, 2010  
Minutes

Present:
Paul S. LaFollette (Pres.), Joan P. Shapiro (V. Pres.), Roberta Sloan (Secy.), Karen M. Turner (Immed. Past Pres.), Nora Alter (SCT), Adam Davey (CHPSW), Joan Delalic (Engr.), Margaret Devinney (CLA), Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Tricia S. Jones, (Educ.), Charles Jungreis (Med.), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Laurie MacPhail (Dent.), Mark C. Rahdert (Law), Charles Ruchalski (Pharm), Jay Sinha (FSBM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent:
Charles Ruchalski (Pharm), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald), Luke Kahlich (BCMD – on leave)

Call to Order:
The meeting began at 1:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from 9-7-10
The minutes were accepted, with the addition of the Professor Jay Sinha’s name, since he had been inadvertently left off the previous minutes and he did attend the meeting on September 7th.

President’s Report
President Paul LaFollette announced Ruth Ost will try to make the meeting but may not because of the death of the honors student, Kevin Coffey, this past weekend.

There was some discussion of the mode of transportation to Provost’s Lisa’s reception in NYC on September 28th, but there was no agreement on car-pooling or one singular way of getting to NYC. The FSSC meeting on the 28th has been cancelled.

President LaFollette suggested that we follow Joyce Lindorff’s suggestion that all collegial assemblies should have elected alternates who can attend the senate meetings if the regular senators cannot attend, and encouraged the FSSC members to suggest this to their collegial assemblies.

It was suggested that the various social networking modes be explored as a way for the FSSC members to communicate with one another without using TU Mail or the Blackboard Senate Web Site.

President LaFollette reported that after the Representative Senate Meeting held on 9/13/10, one faculty response was that recording the attendance of Senators would be demeaning. However, a number of other senators felt that it would be a good idea. President LaFollette mentioned that during the spring semester, 2010, the FSSC decided to publish aggregate attendance data for fall, 2010, and data listing the names and attendance record of senators during spring, 2011.

Regarding future guests at FSSC meetings, VP of Graduate Studies and Research, Kenneth Blank will come to a November Meeting. Professor Istvan L. Varkonyi, the Director of General Education, will attend an October meeting. Professor Varkonyi will come in October. Senior Vice Provost of Strategic Initiatives and Communication, Dr. Betsy Leebron Tutelaman has expressed an interest in speaking to both a full senate meeting and the FSSC. She has been told that she is welcome at both.
Representatives from the Athletics Department have contacted President LaFollette, and have been told that they will be scheduled to speak to the FSSC during spring semester, 2011.

The topic of outside employment raised by the professor at the Dental School was discussed.

President LaFollette has had difficulty posting to the new Blackboard and so he sent out a recent email with attachments that he hoped all FSSC members had been able to access and review.

The FSSC retreat with Interim Vice President and Acting Provost Richard Englert has been scheduled from 12:00 to approximately 4:00 pm on November 17, 2010. Discussion will follow lunch. Last year’s retreat ran two hours, and it is expected that the upcoming one will not last more than three hours. Professor Deborah Howe mentioned that there is a Grad Board meeting that day, and it was decided to let the Grad Board know about the retreat in the event that they wish to reschedule their meeting.

**Vice President’s Report:**

Vice President Shapiro stated that she had little to add to what was said at the Representative Faculty Meeting. She reiterated her hope that the FSSC would receive many bios and statements from faculty willing to serve on committees. Since VP Shapiro will be away during the next FSSC meeting, President LaFollette has agreed to lead the discussion on filling committee openings with faculty who have volunteered to serve.

Vice President Shapiro further suggested that the FSSC members should ask their colleagues to apply. She said that faculty members are often honored to be asked to serve, and this encourages participation. All bios and statements of interest should be sent to this email address: senate2@temple.edu.

Mark Rahdert (Law) asked if the committee list could be sent out to everyone so that senators can be sent to the various school and college lists.

Past President, Karen Turner suggested that Cheryl check with Nikki Keach, who is the Chair on the Committee for the Faculty of Color. She also mentioned that the former University Disciplinary Committee now has a new name and suggested that VP Shapiro check what it now is called.

Senate Coordinator, Cheryl Mack, mentioned that if there are empty spaces on the sheet which lists the committee vacancies, it means that the chair of a particular committee has not yet responded to her with the requested numbers of members, and how many new members are needed.

**Guest: Professor Ruth Ost, Director of the Honors Program**

Professor Ost shared what a difficult weekend it had been for all of the honors students and the program since Honors Student Kevin Coffey was killed in the Mega bus crash. She said that a bus, paid for by the parents of one honors student, will be available to many of the students who would like to attend the funeral in Kansas. She stated that her experience is that when there is a crisis, Temple administrators and staff are unbelievably helpful. She mentioned that Support Services have just been wonderful. There will be a memorial service on campus that will be organized by the students after the funeral in Kansas. It is the students’ hope that the Kevin’s parents will be able to attend.

Director Ost gave some very impressive statistical information to the FSSC regarding the Honors Program. She is happy to share this information, in detail, with anyone who is interested. The overall impression is that the honors program is doing wonderfully and has increased in numbers by 40% since 2005. The Math and Verbal incoming honors student average SAT’s scores for the past two years has been 1332.

Professor Ost expressed her concern that there are fewer incoming honors students this fall than last and attributes this to an enrollment decision that precluded the awarding of some scholarships of note to potential honors students. She felt this drop in numbers was a direct reflection of less money being offered.
Temple Honors Students and Alumni are bringing significant accolades to the university including winning three major fellowships/awards last year. One won a Marshall award and two won Udall awards. There was also a Rhodes Scholar finalist, as there has been during the past eight years. She added that there were “a slew” of Fulbright Award Winners. She also mentioned some significant accomplishments of alumni, one of whom is clerking for the Supreme Court. She added that there are many success stories and quite a bit to “brag about.” She is appreciative of the support that the university has given the Honors Program, but feels that it could be a lot better. One of the ways that the university could do better is by offering honors courses all across the university.

Professor Nora Alter (SCT) mentioned that there is no compensation given to the department when a faculty member teaches an honors course. Dr. Ost recognizes this as a real problem. She bemoaned the lack of strong representation of senior faculty in teaching honors courses. She stated that she feels that the university needs to be pressured to help the Honors Program.

Professor Stephanie Knopp (TYL) said that she would love to offer honors courses, but she is not sure if it should be done for juniors, and because the course is so heavy anyway, asked what would need to be added in terms of work. She likened teaching an honors course to being a "defacto" independent study. Professor Ost replied that she felt that it is not as heavy as an independent study. She gave some examples of how the honors component of a course might work.

Generally honors courses are General Education Courses, or courses that are available across the university. It is important to have an honors contract where a student does something that is measurably different, unique and/or special enabling the student to approach the material in a deeper way. She mentioned that if a professor approves, an honors student could take a graduate class but still only pay undergraduate tuition. She is fully supportive of the idea of cross-listing a graduate class with an undergraduate Honors Course. Professor Deborah Howe (SED), communicating by phone from Ambler, agreed that this would be an excellent idea.

FSSC member, Professor Chip Jungreis (Med) mentioned that there might be opportunities at the Medical School for selected Honors students to take a course at the Health Sciences Center, and also possibly get involved in other ways, although according to Professor Jungreis, participating in research would be a more remote.

It was suggested that it is up to the departments across campus to see if they can set up a 4-year course path for the honors students in their major. Professor Ost suggested that there might be an honors track in various majors. She referred to Phi Beta Kappa being the model for the honors student major rather than a "major of distinction" type of track. She further added that it is easy to take an independent study and change it into an honors course.

Professor Ost said that the Honors Program needs a broader base of General Education Honors Classes, but also needs upper level classes. She mentioned that she hopes for “amazing” classes within the upper division: courses that are really attractive and will pull students into taking them. She gave an example of a class currently being team taught by an English Professor and a Family Medicine Physician. She feels that those who win “Great Teaching” awards are ideal candidates to teach Honors courses. At this time, there are well over forty Honors courses offered each semester.

Professor Jeffrey Solow (BCMD) mentioned that if a student is majoring in Music Performance, it’s almost impossible to offer honors courses, however they could be offered in Music Studies.

President LaFollette asked Professor Ost what the FSSC could do to help the Honor’s Program. Professor Ost replied that she would like to have Honors Faculty Fellows who are assigned to the Honors Program for two or three years. She would hope that such a faculty member would be deeply embedded in the program, would receive a course release, and could teach as well as mentor and guide the honors students. She mentioned that this was one of the suggestions emerging from the Academic Compass, but it has not come to fruition as yet.

When asked how many administrators/staff are involved with the Honors Program, Professor Ost replied that she is the Director, Amanda Neuber is the Associate Director, and that there are two.
Therefore, there are four Administrators/staff to meet the needs of approximately 1,600 Honors Students. The Honors Program Office is in Tuttleman, 204. Professor Ost would like to also acquire the space just beyond her current offices. She further suggested that the university should have a Scholarship/Fellowship Office, not just for the Honors Students, but also for all the students at the university.

One excellent change noted by Professor Ost that has and will impact the Honors Program is that now a potential donor can donate directly to the program, whereas, before, this was not possible. Now one can donate to Honors – a big change. Another positive change is that Honors Courses are now searchable online, and with the completion of Banner coming online, Honors courses now searchable online. Honors priority registration will happen once Banner is completely up and running. Also, another positive attraction of becoming an Honors Student at Temple is that university housing is guaranteed for four years.

However, a negative change has been that although it was promised that Honors Students could take nineteen hours without paying extra tuition, even after Professor Ost used this as a recruitment tool, and students came to Temple expecting to be able to do this, the offer was rescinded. Director Ost stated that she does not feel that the Honors Program can make more progress until more resources are "liberated” and given to the program.

President LaFollette thanked Professor Ruth Ost for her time and her very informative presentation.

Old Business:

A motion was made and seconded to retain the same faculty on the Board of Trustee Committees that served last year with the exception of President LaFollette serving on the two committees on which the president of the Faculty Senate is expected to serve. The motion carried unanimously.

Since neither Professor Sloan nor Professor Rahdert, who were on the BOT Development Committee last year were ever invited to attend a meeting, it was decided that President LaFollette would ask Mr. George Moore, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Director of the Temple University Legal Department, to clarify whether or not faculty representation is desired on this committee.

There was a lively discussion on the topic of the parameters of outside employment for full-time faculty, with various faculty members sharing the models used in their particular schools and colleges.

New Business

A question was raised about the cost of copying pages from a faculty member’s Human Resources Personnel File. It was decided to invite the Director of Human Resources to speak to the FSSC, and that this topic would be broached with him at that time.

It was decided to send a reminder to the School of Podiatric Medicine that they are eligible to send a representative to the FSSC, and one would be most welcome.

Professor Jim Korsh suggested that all schools and colleges be asked again for a list of their senators.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta R. Sloan, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary