Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting  
November 2, 2010  
Minutes  
(with Revisions 11.15.2010)

Present:

Paul S. LaFollette (Pres.), Joan Shapiro (V. Pres), Roberta Sloan (Secy.), Karen Turner (Past President), Adam Davey (CHPSW), Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Tricia S. Jones (Educ.), Charles Jungreis (Med.), Jim Korsh (CST), Laurie MacPhail (Dent.), Mark C. Rahdert (Law), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald), Douglas Wager (SCT), Cheryl Mack (Coord.).

Absent:  
Nora Alter (SCT – on leave for 2010-2011), Joan Delalic (Engr.), Margaret Devinney (CLA), Luke Kahlich (BCMD – on leave for Fall 2010), Stephanie Knopp (Tyler), Charles Ruchalski (Pharm), Jay Sinha (FSBM).

Call to Order:

The meeting began at 1:10 pm

Approval of Minutes from 10/19/10:

The approval of the minutes was postponed until next week so that everyone on the FSSC had a chance to read them.

President’s Report – Paul S. LaFollette:

President LaFollette said that he spoke with Frank Friedman about the idea of the Faculty Herald Colloquia, and David Waldstreicher reported that the Faculty Herald Advisory Committee was very pleased with the reaction of the FSSC to this idea. President LaFollette is going to look for funding for the colloquia.

President LaFollette reported that he met with Senior Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, Peter Jones, regarding the FSSC discussion about the SFF’s going online, and VP Jones seemed somewhat open about the fact that there are still issues to be solved regarding this. Apparently one faculty member in the nursing program believes he received a memorandum that if one teaches a class online he/she must have the SFF’s done by November 10th. President LaFollette will check into this.

David Waldstreicher reported that the Advisory Committee of the Faculty Herald thinks it would be a good idea to discuss the idea of the SFF’s online through the Herald. He added that the members of the Faculty Herald Advisory Committee have decided that they would like to have a blog attached to the Faculty Herald, and that this will be happening in the near future.

President LaFollette asked if anyone would be interested in observing the Board of Trustees meeting on December 14th. If there are not sufficient volunteers from amongst the FSSC, President LaFollette will cast a wider net amongst faculty to see if there are any volunteers.

On Friday, November 12th, the FSSC will be invited to the basketball game. This will involve invitations, food and the game, for free. The FSSC was warm towards this idea, and President LaFollette will let Vice President and Provost Englert know that the FSSC would like to continue this tradition.
**Vice-President’s Report – Joan P. Shapiro:**

Vice-President Joan Shapiro reported that appointments to committees are now going well. She said that we are almost ready to hold elections for the elected committees. She is waiting for a current list of faculty who are eligible to vote. Secretary Roberta Sloan mentioned that the issue of not being able to obtain an up-to-date list of faculty who are eligible to vote seems related to the issue of the Cherry and White and other websites on campus not being up to date. She reported that when she requested a list of the Arts Faculty and the university VIP’s, at the beginning of the semester, in order to send out “Arts Accomplishments and News,” the list given to her by Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development, Diane Maleson’s office, had many errors and omissions. President LaFollette mentioned that in order to use the faculty list for elections, it must be from a credible source, and it should be up to date including the NTT’s who have been employed for three years. HR should be able to give the list to the FSSC.

VP Shapiro reported that Michel Boufadel (Engineering) has volunteered to have his name placed on the ballot to serve on the UTPAC. Eli Goldblatt (CLA) has volunteered to have his name placed on the ballot for EPPC Committee.

Maia Cucchiara (Education) has volunteered to work on the Student Awards Selection Committee. Krupa Viswanathan (FSBM) would like to serve on the Library Committee. Both were approved by FSSC vote to serve on these committees.

**Old Business:**

The issue of Conflict of Interest and Travel, discussed the previous week, was brought up again, with a report submitted, regarding the policy in CLA. The new policy seems to be that in order to miss a class or if you might have a conflict of interest, a request must be approved beforehand by the dean. On the website of CLA there is a statement of conduct that requires faculty members to meet classes regularly and if a faculty member needs to miss a class, then he/she needs to find a substitute if possible. The absence needs to be preapproved by the dean.

President LaFollette shared that he is distressed because he feels that in CLA and CST, such requirements are offensive and demeaning.

One senator felt that this is a department matter, not a college or school matter. A response to the university could be that this policy might be best handled at the department level. Another senator pointed out that the administration has said that this is something that the TAUP Contract “made them do,” and that this is not the case. It was mentioned that the president of the university has the power to change policy at any time. On the other hand, it was mentioned that the FSSC has the power to say what a reasonable policy should be. He feels that the Faculty Senate should say what is “right” and not worry about the implications.

One senator suggested that this all might be a response to a few individuals who are misusing the system. He suggested that the answer is not to have a blanket policy that covers everyone. President Hart was queried on this when she visited the FSSC and she did mention that this was a response to a few people abusing the system. Vice-President Shapiro suggested looking into the situations in CLA and CST.

Another senator mentioned that there does not seem to be clarity, even in CLA, regarding travel policies.

Senator Solow discussed the policy regarding outside remuneration. The handbook allows for one day a week, but there is the question of whether or not the week consists of five days or seven days.
President LaFollette said that he would like a motion regarding the issue of the necessity of preapprovals be considered for passage at the next FSSC meeting, and if passed, that it be brought up at the Representative Faculty Meeting and voted upon. Senator Rahdert and Senator Korsh will work on a policy statement that will be brought forward as a possible motion at the next FSSC meeting. President LaFollette mentioned that the handbook used to say (or does say) that it is up to the faculty member to make arrangements. President LaFollette mentioned that he does not believe it is necessary to go to the dean or department chair to justify our professional behavior. Senators mentioned that the policy differs at both the Medical School and the Law School.

One senator mentioned that he has never been at a place when the administration runs so roughshod over academic freedom.

A senator mentioned that theoretically the administration has the ability to “tell us how to do our jobs,” because that is the law in Pennsylvania. Another senator mentioned that faculty members should stand up for what they believe in and hopefully, the administration will listen.

It was mentioned that this is an example of how the administration can punish a faculty member selectively as part of a pattern of “who's in and who's out.” If the Faculty Senate wants to send a message to the administration, then we need to move on this. This new policy could easily become a club that can be used against faculty, and one that can be used selectively.

Regarding the Representative Senate Meeting next week, Vice President and Provost, Richard Englert and President Hart will address the Senate. President LaFollette requested that the FSSC suggest topics for discussion. It was suggested that one topic might be the “Temple Brand” and another suggested that it might be the “Temple Websites.” Another senator suggested that the Representative Faculty Senate pass a motion expressing dissatisfaction about the lack of bylaws being completed. President LaFollette said that he would not oppose such a motion. One senator suggested a “get off the dime” motion would appropriate.

Vice President Shapiro suggested that there should be a Dysfunctional Policies Committee.

President LaFollette hopes that the first Faculty Senate Colloquium might be on the topic of “shared governance at Temple University” and at “the world at large.” Someone else suggested that Shared Governance at Temple University is a myth.

It was suggested that there could be a motion that the Faculty Senate asks the president and the provost to bring forth a template that schools and colleges can use for the revision of their bylaws and that this be done in such a way that the senate have input. These bylaw templates should be given to the FSSC no later than the end of November. It was suggested that this be part of the language of the motion that Senators Rahdert and Korsh will be writing for consideration at our next meeting.

We were reminded that at the upcoming Representative Faculty Meeting, there will be a 2nd reading and vote on Professor Greg Urwin’s motion.

A senator asked about Banner and some significant challenges with the implementation regarding Banner. She said that it has been reported to her that the training is appalling. She added that offering training before the systems are in place does not seem to be working and that there are many other Banner issues. Past President Karen Turner suggested contacting the Banner project manager about these issues.

New Business:

Senator Jungreis has spoken to the Ophthalmology Department and suggested that the head of the department be invited to speak to the FSSC. This met with everyone’s approval. The senator said that the Head of the Ophthalmology Department is very amenable to trying to work out a way that main campus can be served.
Again there was mention of the difficulty in scheduling appointments with Temple doctors, even if you are a Temple employee.

There was some discussion of the Town Hall meetings and their function. President LaFollette mentioned that President Hart told him that these are replacing the gatherings she previously held at her home. Some senators felt that the Town Hall meetings were ineffective and scripted, leaving little time for the real interchange that is the norm for Town Hall meetings. Some members of the FSSC felt that the Town Hall meetings are ineffective, and are more of a “dog and pony show” than a real exchange of ideas. Concern was expressed that the upcoming Town Meeting on the 20/20 Plan will be typical of the previous Town Hall meetings that have taken place.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting ended at 3:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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