Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Tuesday, February 7, 2012  
Minutes

Present: Paul S. LaFollette (Pres.), Joan Shapiro (V. Pres.), Mark C. Rahdert (Sec’y), Karen Turner (Past President), Nora Alter (SCT), Mark Anderson (Law), Adam Davey (CHPSW), Joan Delalic (Engr.) [teleconferenced], Deborah Howe (SED), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Michael Jacobs (Phar), Tricia S. Jones (Educ.), Charles Jungreis (Med.), Stephanie Knopp (Tyler), Jim Korsh (CST), Laurie MacPhail (Dent.), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Jeffrey Draine (SSW), Michael Jackson (STHM),

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the January 31, 2012 meeting were approved.

3. President’s Report
President LaFollette reported that a meeting with members of the SFF committee will take place on February 10, 2012 to discuss continued faculty reservations about the proposed move to on-line administration of SFFs. LaFollette has also arranged a meeting with the Provost, the Vice President for Finance, members of the Budget Review Committee, Faculty Senate officers and others to discuss the budget and capital spending program. That meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012.

The Controller’s focus group on travel is apparently nearly ready to submit recommendations about revisions to the travel policy. Once they are released, LaFollette will invite an appropriate representative from the administration to come to a FSSC meeting to discuss travel policy issues.

4. Vice President’s Report
Vice President Shapiro reminded FSSC members that we are still looking for candidates to fill committee vacancies, especially for the elected committees.

Shapiro asked Karen Turner to report on the work of the Senate election nominating committee. The committee will send out an announcement this week to the faculty. Since the bylaws regarding elections were changed last year, the process will be different from what it has been in the past. The announcement will quote the new bylaws so that all will be informed of the new procedure. Candidates will be asked to submit a one page statement of interest, and to provide a link to a current CV. The announcement will also note that officers must be able to attend the regular Tuesday afternoon meetings of the FSSC.
Shapiro reported that Melissa Gilbert (CLA), a former chair of the Committee on the Status of Women, has volunteered to help find new candidates for that committee. Also, Marina Angel (Law) has put out a call for new candidates for the Research Programs and Policies Committee.

5. Special Faculty Senate Meeting to Discuss White Paper

Most of the remainder of the meeting concerned preparations for the February 8, 2012 special meeting of the Faculty Senate to discuss the Provost’s White Paper on reorganization. FSSC members from Boyer, SCT, Tyler, and Education reported on responses to the White Paper from their respective schools. Boyer’s collegial assembly has sent a letter to the Provost officially opposing the proposed reorganization of arts programs, and a meeting of the Boyer faculty with Provost Englert has been scheduled. SCT has sent a letter opposing the absorption of most SCT departments into CLA. The departments of Theater and Film and Media Arts have submitted an addendum to that letter indicating their willingness to explore options for creation of a new entity that would link them more closely with other arts programs at the University. The Provost will be meeting with the faculty of SCT on Thursday, February 9. Tyler had a faculty meeting last week which was devoted entirely to budget issues. At that meeting, Vice Provost and Dean Stroker was asked about restructuring. He stated that any possible savings from merging Tyler and Boyer have been accomplished already. The College of Education has sent a letter to the Provost opposing any merger with CLA.

Regarding the format of the special Faculty Senate meeting, it was agreed that the meeting should begin with a statement from President LaFollette, followed by presentations from faculty members representing each of the most directly affected schools and colleges. After these presentations there should be a discussion of the White Paper proposals regarding reorganization of the arts. This should be followed by a discussion of proposals regarding reorganization of the College of Education. After that there will be an opportunity to discuss all other aspects of the White Paper, together with an opportunity for members of the Senate to offer any relevant motions or resolutions. The meeting agenda will be placed on a screen to help participants at the meeting stay on track, and President LaFollette will allocate appropriate time periods for each part of the discussion.

6. Old Business

President LaFollette was asked whether there is any further information about the pending report of the President’s task force on workload. There has been no further information.

LaFollette was asked about progress in formulating a liaison committee with Temple Student Government. There has been no further progress. LaFollette will revisit the issue by re-initiating contact with his student government counterparts.

7. New Business

Vice President Shapiro alerted the FSSC to an emerging issue throughout higher education known as the “completion agenda.” Spurred by the U.S. Department of Education, as well as by ranking criteria used by U.S. News & World Report, there is likely to be great pressure on
Temple and other universities to speed up the time it takes for students to achieve graduation. This will pose significant challenges for urban universities such as Temple that have significant part-time student populations. It could also have major ramifications for the quality of higher education. Shapiro will send additional information to FSSC members regarding the completion agenda.

There was a question whether the University has a faculty hiring freeze. No one had any information suggesting a freeze in faculty hiring; however, as has been true for some time, all authorizations to hire must be individually approved by the Provost.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Rahdert
Secretary