Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Minutes

Present: Paul S. LaFollette (Pres.), Joan Shapiro (V. Pres.), Mark C. Rahdert (Secy), Karen Turner (Past President), Mark Anderson (Law), Joan Delalic (Engr.) [teleconference], Michael Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Phar), Tricia S. Jones (Educ.), Jim Korsh (CST), Laurie MacPhail (Dent.), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Nora Alter (SCT), Adam Davey (CHPSW), Jeffrey Draine (SSW), Deborah Howe (SED), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Charles Jungreis (Med.), Stephanie Knopp (Tyler), David Waldstreicher (Fac. Herald)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting were approved.

3. President’s Report

President LaFollette reported at some length on a meeting with President Hart. One item they discussed was the Workload policy. Hart indicated that she has received a good deal of faculty commentary, most of it in line with the comments submitted by the FSSC. As to NTTs, she acknowledged that NTT responsibilities have evolved in practice in ways that depart from the model presented in the Workload policy. She thinks we should be trying to think into the future regarding workload policies, not just stating practices or assumptions that existed in the past. LaFollette suggested the possibility of a task force specifically devoted to thinking about the future role of NTTs. Hart liked the idea and said she would recommend it to her successor.

LaFollette also discussed the need to have some kind of neutral “ombudsperson” who can facilitate conflict resolution between faculty and administration – something that is more informal than the union grievance procedure or a Personnel Committee matter. President Hart stated that she wants to give the idea additional thought and will consider proposing it to her successor.

Presidents Hart and LaFollette also discussed some of the issues with the GenEd program. LaFollette specifically raised concerns brought to him by members of GEEC regarding Deans’ power to dictate courses and loads, and the lifting of enrollment caps. While they had a candid discussion of the issues, they were unable to reach agreement about how these matters should be addressed.

Hart and LaFollette also discussed reorganization of the arts. President Hart indicated her awareness of the arguments concerning reorganization, but she expressed confidence that the
new Center for the arts would be a workable approach. She also observed that she regards the proposed changes for the College of Education as at least partly a response to declining enrollments.

Regarding the status of Collegial Assemblies, President Hart expressed interest in our views about the need to strengthen their independent role, but she felt that we would be better served to address those concerns to her successor.

President Hart expressed a desire to come to the May meeting of the Faculty Senate, to which President LaFollette readily agreed. FSSC members agreed that we should present President Hart with a formal commendation for her contributions as President of Temple. Tricia Jones volunteered to draft an appropriate resolution for consideration at the next FSSC meeting.

4. Vice President’s Report

Vice President Shapiro reported that April 30 has been set as the deadline for committee reports. She also reported that she has discussed with Senior Vice Provost Maleson a possible candidate for appointment to one of the appointed position vacancies on the Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee. Maleson seemed receptive to the suggestion.

Shapiro noted that several FSSC members will be rotating off or completing their terms this year. She gave special thanks to departing past President Karen Turner, as well as to Engineering representative Joan Delalic. Tricia Jones will be rotating off as COE representative but will become Senate Secretary. Others who have completed terms but are eligible to return include Adam Davey (who will be on leave next term), Charles Jungreis, James Korsh, and Laurie MacPhail.

There was some discussion about the apportionment of Representative Senators among schools and colleges, as well as the number of allotted Senate representatives. Members also discussed the issue of nonattendance by some Senate representatives and what to do about it. There was agreement that these matters should be included in the review of governance to be taken up next year.

5. Old Business

Karen Turner reported that there has been some difficulty getting the final election results and vote tallies posted on the Senate website. The new website has been partially completed but is not fully functional, and while parts of the existing website can be accessed and changed, other parts cannot. There was a general discussion regarding the need to press for prompt completion of the website, which will require some funding from the Provost. President LaFollette will contact the Provost’s office to see what can be done.

The task force report on the climate at Temple for GLBT students, which has been submitted to the President, has never been released to the Temple community. President Hart is aware of the delay, and has promised to move forward quickly on it.
FSSC members need to take a look at the proposed Quality of Life Survey drafted by the Quality of Life subcommittee. Mark Rahdert asked FSSC members to send him any suggestions regarding either the wording of questions on the survey, or other possible questions to be included, so that he can transmit those suggestions to the committee. The aim is to have a short, easy-to-complete survey, with questions that do not call for narrative responses, but instead can be answered using categories ranging from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree,” with a further option of “Not Applicable.” The best timing for sending out the survey would be the beginning of the fall semester.

6. New Business

The agenda for the final Senate meeting in May will include President LaFollette’s year-end report, President Hart’s report, the Provost’s report, and a presentation by GEEC. GEEC is also preparing a document on GenEd workload issues, which it will submit to the FSSC for feedback.

There was general agreement that the FSSC members should stay in touch over the summer, and meet informally if necessary, perhaps through a distance-conferencing device.

There were questions about the status of SFFs and Summer School. The SFF matter has been largely determined by the Provost’s decision to start universal on-line administration this summer. The Summer School task force is currently meeting. There has been discussion about possible barriers to attracting regular full time students to take more summer courses. There has also been discussion about attracting new students through special programs. One idea is college courses for high school students. Another is courses geared to students from other universities who are home in the Philadelphia area over the summer. And there have been discussions about shortening time and credit requirements for some programs that include summer study. There are not likely to be any noticeable changes this summer, since most of these ideas will take a year at a minimum to design and implement.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Rahdert
Secretary