

Representative Faculty Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2013

**Attendance:**

Representative senators and officers: 28  
Ex-officio: 1  
Faculty, administrators and guests: 9  
Total attendance: 38

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:50pm.

**2. Vice-President's Report:**

Mark Rahdert, Vice-President of Faculty Senate gave a brief report on committees. He reported that we have a need of candidates and appointments to several committees including three very important committees: Personnel Committee, UTPAC, and EPPC. He encouraged senators to ask colleagues to serve and reminded them that the nomination period for elected committees is over at the end of this month.

Steve Newman (CLA), Chair of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee Nominating Committee was asked to report on the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for Faculty Senate Offices for 2013-2014. The slate presented is:

- Mark Rahdert (Law), President
- Tricia Jones (COE), Vice-President
- Paul LaFollette (CST), Secretary

He indicated that after Feb 25<sup>th</sup> you can offer your own nominations, but we are no longer taking nominations from the floor. He encouraged interested faculty to go to the Faculty Senate website. For self-nominations you need to have 6 faculty senators writing in support of your nomination. If there are questions faculty are encouraged to contact Steve Newman or Cheryl Mack.

**3. President's Report:**

Joan Shapiro, President of the Faculty Senate, introduced Steve Newman as the new editor of The Faculty Herald. She welcomed him and thanked him for his service in this role. She also mentioned that a new issue of the Faculty Herald had just been distributed. Joan also explained that there are two students doing filming at today's session. They are focusing on pictures of Dai and are not recording any audio.

**4. Guest: Jodi Levine-Laufgraben, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Institutional Advancement.**

Jodi came to share exciting news about Banner Updates that will be in effect for summer and fall registration. These updates concern wait-listing and washing out.

Banner can now wait-list for courses. The Law School has been using wait-listing as a pilot so we now have a better understanding that wait-listing is a key tool for academic planning and scheduling. We will have wait-listing beginning in March for Summer Session and it will be available for every course. The capacity is 100 on waitlists. Students can see capacity and number waitlisted but not where they are specifically on the waitlist. If you are waitlisted and you are first on the list you are notified and have 72

hours to decide whether to take the opening or not (72 hours allow for students who need advisor signature to register, hence over the weekend).

This system doesn't allow for section shopping – you can only be waitlisted for a course you don't have. They can be on as many waitlists as they wish. This system eliminates the ability of an individual instructor to override enrollment limits and let a student in a course.

Washing Out: The Wednesday before start of semester, a student who has not paid for their courses are washed out. This was the #1 problem for financial aid offices and caused a great deal of stress and tension for students. We will no longer have washouts. Instead, students will be asked to sign an agreement that if they register for a course and cannot pay in full beginning of semester they will be put into a payment plan but will not be washed out of the course.

Jodi invited FSSC members to contact her if they have questions: [jodih@temple.edu](mailto:jodih@temple.edu).

There were several questions on these developments (responses from Jodi are summarized in parentheses):

- Will instructors see waitlists? (Individual colleges are probably making this decision for their group. She wants to check on this).
- Will we be able to pick priority of waitlist? (Initially it was going to be first-come, first-serve. They have decided to do waitlist manipulation; working with associate deans and schedulers to see how they want to do this and who will be responsible at the school or college to control this).
- Is wait-listing by CRN rather than course level? (True, but wait-listing is for course access not section access. They can't section shop.)

### **5. Guest: Provost Dai, Dialogue with Dai:**

Joan Shapiro introduced Provost Dai who had recently been appointed as Provost for Temple University. She gave a general summary of Provost Dai's credentials which attest to his excellence as a scholar and academic and his diverse interests and accomplishments outside the academy. Among the accomplishments she noted were:

- He is a scholar of Molecular and surface sciences.
- He has a great record of sponsored research.
- He plans to continue his research even as he serves as Provost.
- He has a truly impressive record of publications.
- He has received numerous awards and is a Fellow of several academic societies.
- He is also a Renaissance man – a former conductor of Philadelphia Chinese Musical Voices Choir.

Provost Dai welcomed the student representatives visiting to do videography of Provost Dai during the session.

He indicated that his intention was to discuss his goals as Provost. He summarized his goals as: (1) finding sufficient resources to accomplish the mission of access to excellence, (2) delivering the best education we can, and (3) supporting to the fullest extent the scholarly activity of our faculty.

He began by asking, "What are the strategies to accomplish these goals and what are the challenges we face?" He began by addressing the challenges. His comments indicated the following:

- student enrollment (we are seeing decreasing pressures due to demographic changes – 15-20% decreases; community colleges seeing 10-20% drop in enrollment)
- pressure on tuition and student debt increasing.(we can no longer just raise tuition).
- pressure of stability of state funding (PA state appropriations are currently 12% of Temple’s operating budget).
- pressure of health enterprise (do we have control over these TUHS costs?)
- in a globalized world how do we help our country maintain its prosperity?
- are we delivering the kinds of education to our students to make and keep them competitive with the rest of the world?
- Temple should not follow the lead of elite institutions; we should create a new education paradigm.

Provost Dai then moved to a discussion of strategies that he believes we should implement to address these challenges. His comments included the following thoughts:

- improve our ranking (this is not just a matter of playing with numbers; we need to control the perception of the university in the larger public)
- Temple-made campaign only means something to Temple folks unless we increase our rankings. We have increased the investment in scholarships to attract the top students to come and move the SAT levels to the higher end.
- We still have ability to invest; we need to conduct a strategic investment in terms of hiring new, top-quality, research faculty.
- Investing in research and scholarly effort
- In terms of students – merit scholarships (applications 1300 or higher is up 6% and those indicating they will come are up 50%).
- Investing in student services; counseling, internships.
- We need international students. To maintain a USNWR ranking some schools don’t allow international students but this is changing.

There were questions and answers in this Dialogue with Dai (Provost’s Dai’s responses and comments to faculty comments and questions are presented in parentheses:

-Jeffrey Solow (Boyer) – How do we disentangle these things? President Theobald’s scorecard for costs of universities was in the press this week. Our scoreboard costs are \$19,000 and Penn’s is \$20,000. (We have been pursuing a wrong tuition policy; Penn charges \$40,000 and then they move \$15,000 to financial aid; they redistribute the funds. We haven’t done that.). (Highest student debt comes from specialty areas like music and arts).

-Howard Spodek (CLA) –Observation – there is a huge difference in Temple’s population is physical presentation of the campus. Physical facilities are important. What about that? (Right now we are in the process of significantly upgrading the Temple campus and physical facilities that attract and retain students).

-Jim Korsh (CST) – Thank you for a serious discussion on some of these issues. But on the idea of rankings; rankings are the worst idea. We should consider an alternative plan. Value for dollar should be stressed. We should combine with other institutions.

-Chip Jungreis (TUSM) – The Temple Made campaign has merit. We don’t advertise it enough.

-Art Hochner (FSBM) – Congratulations on your appointment as Provost. Thanks for opening up the conversation. What is role of faculty and faculty senate and shared governance in achieving the goals you have set? (Faculty governance is important, faculty should be more involved).

-Tricia Jones (COE) – There is concern that pursuing rankings may make it difficult to honor our Conwellian mission. How can we reconcile these potentially competing goals? (We are not giving up on our Conwellian mission. We will continue to support that. For example, the 0% tuition increases helps us be accessible to students from all sectors. And, one of the best ways to make it easier for any student to come to Temple is to reduce student debt. One model we may want to look at is the University of Pittsburgh model.)

-Paul LaFollette (CST): If increasing SAT scores is one goal, how do we attend to the needs of students that don't have the high SAT scores? (We have too many students with very low SATs. Even the best students from School District of Philadelphia have average SATs of around 850. He discussed different models with Provost Lisa. We need to find a way to accept SDP students; perhaps by admitting them without reporting SAT scores but with GPA and class ranking).

-Mark Rahdert (Law): Rankings have distorted the structure for Higher Education in Law. Rankings encourage institutions to look at numbers and how to manipulate numbers. (We improve ranking by improving our quality -- THAT IS THE CRITICAL POINT).

-Steve Newman (CLA): We have a situation of competing goods. There are tensions between 4 year graduation pass and bringing in international and/or urban students who take more support to finish well in 4 years.

## **6. Adjournment:**

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia S. Jones  
Faculty Senate Secretary