

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Mark Rahdert (Pres), Tricia Jones (Vice Pres.), Paul LaFollette (Secy.), Joan Shapiro (Past-Pres.), Li Bai (Engr), Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Cheri Carter (SSW), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Chip Jungreis (TUSM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Steve Newman (Fac. Herald), Michael Sachs (CHP), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Robert Reinstein (Law)
Karen M. Turner (SMC),

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. President Rahdert asked that we silence our mobile phones.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report:

Rahdert mentioned 3 items concerning the budgetary process.

1) The University Budget Steering Committee has lost two members who need to be replaced. Rahdert feels one of them should be a member of the FSSC

2) He wants to make it a high priority to encourage the formation of active collegial budget committees with meaningful faculty participation. Collegial committees should be made aware that they can contact Ken Kaiser for training.

At this point, the President's report was briefly interrupted by a discussion of how best to assure that colleges, especially those whose deans chair their collegial assemblies will get budget committees that are selected fairly. The fear is that some deans will simply appoint their committees. There was some suggestion that the FSSC take some active steps to encourage the formation of meaningful budget committees, such as once again asking President Theobald or Provost Dai to explicitly ask deans to elect their committees. Others felt it was premature to do this and that we should first document a problem before seeking redress.

The president's report continues:

The third item concerning the budget was the announcement that a new committee will be formed consisting of administrators and faculty to evaluate any new proposed courses. Their charge will be to prevent the duplication of courses and internal competition for credit hours that could otherwise be the natural consequence of the new budgetary model. This committee will be overseen by Jodi Laufgraben. The Senate has been asked to provide names of potential faculty to serve on this committee.

This announcement prompted another round of discussion which began with the question of why this is not a matter that could be handled by EPPC. Rahdert said he has raised the same question with Jodi, and was told that the new committee will have a much more narrow focus.

It was pointed out that in recent years the administration has followed a pattern of creating new joint administration/faculty committees in which the faculty members are selected by the administration asking for a list of potential members and then choosing from that list those whom they want. This bypasses the more traditional approach of the Senate creating and staffing the committees it needs to conduct its

business, and potentially makes it easier for the administration “stack the deck” to give the appearance of shared governance when none is intended.

The point was raised that at least four such committees have been formed in the past 2 years -- the GenEd oversight committee, the university budget steering committee, the committee currently under discussion, and the SFF committee. It was further suggested that it is time to take ownership of our own committee structure. Part of this could be facilitated by the effort, begun last year, of reviewing and mapping our current committees and, their charges, and their membership requirements.

It was further suggested that we have been struggling over the past several years to get EPPC fully populated with faculty, and this costs us credibility in any attempt to re-assert our ownership of our committees.

The discussion returned to the matter of best practices for creating collegial budget committees. It was argued that President Theobald has said that one of the primary virtues of his budgetary model is that it promotes transparency, and that failure to insist on elected committees will undermine transparency. Another member suggested that we have two pressing and related issues – the proper selection of budget committees and the meaningful review of deans. This member feels that these issues are worth “making some noise” about.

We were informed that at least one collegial assembly has passed a resolution mandating an elected budget committee.

A motion was made that each school’s budget committee should be elected and have fair representation from all departments. Rahdert asked that we postpone this motion until next week, and it remained unseconded.

Another representative asked Rahdert if there had been any response to the letter we sent to President Theobald asking for his help in dealing with deans reluctant to approve by-laws changes. Rahdert said he has received no response.

The president’s report continued:

Over the summer, we joined a consortium of universities to develop standards for online education.

Once again discussion ensued. The consensus was that our entry into this consortium appears to be benign, perhaps even praiseworthy; this is once again an example of decisions made during the summer with inadequate opportunity for faculty input.

One of the more interesting issues raised was whether it is ethical for us to offer online courses that we would prefer our own majors not take.

Rahdert’s report continues:

A new task force will be created to consider responses to the LBGTQ climate committee’s report.

Diane Maleson wants to begin training sessions for new department chairpersons and asks the FSSC to help her design them. This prompted some discussion as to whether this should be put off until after the decision is made as to whether or not chairs will remain in the bargaining unit, No clear consensus developed.

The president's report continues:

It is becoming increasingly important to revise the faculty handbook which is now hopelessly out of conformity to the union contracts and to current practice. The Handbook Committee will be resurrected and begin work this semester.

Rahdert reports that it is unclear as to which faculty will be invited to the President's inauguration, since it will be held in a small venue. Several members of the FSSC were upset by this announcement as it seems to show insufficient respect to faculty. Others pointed out that Dr. Hart's inauguration was embarrassingly poorly attended. Newman asked if he can investigate this decision.

Rahdert said that his immediate agenda for the Senate is twofold:

- 1) to continue our work in reviewing our own committees.
- 2) to facilitate communication between the Senate and Collegial Assemblies

Our retreat will be in October 25 from noon to five. It will be held somewhere downtown. It will consist of the FSSC, The Provost and members of his staff, and deans and their representatives. Altogether there will be 45 to 50 people. Three content areas are proposed:

- 1) a continuing discussion of the RCM budgetary model
- 2) best practices for entrepreneurial endeavors
- 3) the proposed development of a student honor code

Various suggestions were made about this proposed program. We do not want yet another Ken Kaiser PowerPoint presentation. Entrepreneurship seems to have moved from being one of many components of the old Compass to become the "center of the world."

We do not want the honor code to become legalistic and punitive. What ethical dilemmas will RCM post to us? For instance, it may be good for our majors to spend some of their time at Temple's other campuses, but under RCM colleges will lose money when they do.

Other thoughts:

The push for tuition paying master's students could (and in the past has) result in the development of remunerative but poor quality programs.

What are the Provost's plans with respect to GenEd now that they have received an apparently very positive report from the outside reviewers?

At this point, the Secretary was asked to include in the minutes the fact that Schwartz described his own comments as "uncharacteristically succinct."

LaFollette asked if it would be appropriate for him to reconvene the ad hoc committee formed last year to provide liaison between GenEd and the FSSC. Consensus was that this is a good idea, and LaFollette will do so.

Vice President's report:

The following faculty were approved to serve on Senate committees:

- Mary Conran (FSBM), GEEC
- Rickie Sanders (CLA), Faculty of Color
- Maia Cucchiara (COE), Student Award Selection Cmte.

We need people for the Research & Creative Awards committee.

Following the Vice President's report, we discussed a request from the African American Studies Department for funds to help celebrate the anniversary of their founding. Our conclusions were as follows:

We do not have any budget for such funding.
We suggest that they might apply to the Lectures & Forums committee.
Rahdert will draft a statement of congratulations to the department.

Next, Rahdert asked for suggestions for speakers he could invite to FSSC and Senate meetings. We gave him a substantial number of suggestions.

New Business:

The following motion was made by Newman:

Under normal circumstances, no one invited speaker may present remarks lasting longer than 20 minutes at any meeting of the FSSC or Senate meeting. Response to questions will not be counted in these 20 minutes. When possible, advance copies of PowerPoint presentations and other handouts are encouraged.

After some discussion the motion carried.

A member complained about the number of people he sees smoking outdoors on campus and asks what we can do to encourage the university to be more aggressive about enforcing its smoking policies.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.
Secretary