

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, September 17, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Rahdert (Pres), Tricia Jones (Vice Pres.), Paul LaFollette (Secy.), Joan Shapiro (Past-Pres.), Li Bai (Engr), Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Chip Jungreis (TUSM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Steve Newman (Fac. Herald) Robert Reinstein (Law), Michael Sachs (CHP), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Karen M. Turner (SMC), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Cheri Carter (SSW), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as corrected.

President's Report:

President Rahdert has sent a letter to the Department of African American Studies, congratulating them on their anniversary, explaining that the FSSC has no budget to support their request, and suggesting that they approach the Committee on Lectures & Forums. He also sent a note to the Lecture and Forums Committee endorsing the anticipated request from the Department of African American Studies.

Rahdert has scheduled several guests for upcoming FSSC meetings:

- Jodi Laufgraben will join us next week for discussion of the changes to the academic calendar and the new academic program review committee.
- Diane Maleson will be with us on October 3 to discuss P&T and Department Chairs.
- Kevin Clark and Karen Clarke will be joining us at a later date to discuss athletics at Temple

All of these guests have been informed of the 20 minute rule.

Future guests will include:

- Board Chairman Patrick O'Connor
- President Theobald
- Director of GenEd Istvan Varkonyi
- Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Peter Jones
- Vice Provost for Graduate Studies Zebulon Kendrick

It was proposed that we add, Senior Vice President for Construction, Facilities, and Operations to the list.

There was a brief discussion as to when we should next invite the Provost, and whether we should have regularly recurring (say monthly) meetings with him.

In response to a question, President Rahdert said that he meets regularly with Deputy Provost Michael Sitler.

We were informed that Robert Lux, CFO of the hospital, would be happy to meet with us.

Rahdert asked for suggested agenda items for the October Senate meeting beyond the motion from the September meeting and Dialog with Dai.

Rahdert has spoken to Laufgraben and Sitler about the calendar decisions made of the summer. The list of people consulted prior to making this decision included no teaching faculty. When Rahdert asked whether it meets the requirements of the TAUP contract, he was told that Temple's legal department says it is in compliance. Rahdert has looked at the contract and he is not convinced that this decision does in fact comply.

A member of the FSSC stated that EPPC had discussed similar proposals for changing starting dates. They have generally argued that such changes will cause more problems than they are worth. In particular, the earlier spring starting date is likely to provide a hardship for students transferring in to the spring semester, because there will not be time to assess courses taken at their previous school in time to give them credit, thus requiring them to repeat them here or put off taking courses for which the transferred credit would satisfy pre-requisites.

A member reported that Provost Dai had expressed his profound apologies to the FSSC for acting on the schedule during the summer, but said that it needed doing

so he did it. Another member pointed out that at least limited consultation with the FSSC or other faculty bodies could have easily been carried out *via* email.

It was suggested that there are two issues, the fact that several decisions were carried out during the summer, and the fact that decisions were made with inadequate faculty input. This member felt that the latter is what is important and most urgently needs our attention.

A member pointed out that the summer schedule matter is quite clearly a matter of interest to the faculty because it involves the possibility of offering four week courses. We would need to be certain that faculty were overseeing the academic quality of such courses.

There followed some discussion as to whether the Senate can appropriately comment upon matters which have been delegated to the TAUP. In particular, one member feels that the processes for Tenure and Promotion, and the length of the summer term are matters determined by negotiation between TAUP and the University, and that we have no real right to involve ourselves in them. There was lively discussion about this point, but no clear consensus developed. Several people argued that the faculty are already actively involved in determining parts of the procedural matters surrounding T&P. Departments and Schools and Colleges develop discipline specific policies, and the Presidential Policies and Procedures document developed under Dr. Hart was authored by a joint faculty/administration committee.

Finally an FSSC member summarized his opinion, “We are responsible to deal with anything that concerns more than one college. The union has the right to negotiate. We have the right to discuss.”

Rahdert proposed the creation of a small committee to write a short paper describing our concerns about the various troubling issues we have discussed. Newman, Korsh, and Solow were chosen.

Rahdert continued his report, stating that we need to be more than just reactive, but also to undertake some initiatives. He proposes:

- Finding a better system of ombudsperson-like dispute resolution
- A discussion about the balance between full time and part time teaching faculty – what process can we use to find balance, what measures will we use to assess balance.

It was proposed that we add similar questions about the balance between TT and NTT faculty.

Michael Jackson announced that the service awards will take place on Nov. 12. We decided to have an abridged FSSC meeting from 2:00 to 3:00 on that day.

Vice President's Report:

We approved the following committee memberships:

- Karen Turner – Committee on the Status of Faculty of Color
- Katherine Panzarella – Senate Budget Review Committee

The question arose as to whether we should approve Handbook Committee members as they offer to serve, or wait a week or two and then choose from the volunteers we have. We preferred the latter action.

Thus far we have six volunteers for the Academic Review Committee. We will be sending their CV's and Statements to the Provost.

Jones announced that last semester, Sayed Ali had volunteered to serve on the Student Awards Committee, but we had never formally approved him. We voted at this meeting to approve his appointment.

Diane Maleson has asked us to give her suggested names for her to consider for the Provost's appointed faculty on T&P and Sabbatical committees.

EPPC needs members. Research and Creative Awards Committee needs members. We are asked to encourage our constituents to consider volunteering.

Agenda Item: Response to T&P issues

We considered what our next steps should be. There was strong but not unanimous support for attempting to return to the earlier way of doing things in which the University P & T Committee (UPAT) considered all cases, not just those in which departmental, collegial, decanal are not unanimous. While there was wide belief that this move would make the administration more accountable to faculty opinion, there were also those who argued that this could hurt certain disciplines whose standards for scholarship and creativity may be unfamiliar to many of the UPAT members. If these disciplines do not have adequate representation on UPAT, their

candidates could be hurt. It was also suggested that the administration is likely to not be enthusiastic about changing the way of doing things with respect to T&P during the upcoming contract negotiations.

After substantial discussion, Rahdert proposed that we begin by asking the Provost to meet with us to discuss the T&P process. If we are dissatisfied with what we hear, we can discuss further steps to take.

Agenda Item: The Provost's Agenda

Rahdert identified two areas.

- The Provost's announced goal of expanding our master's degree enrollment. We need to have a structured conversation about this. How will we proceed, from whence will we draw these students, and what kind of resources will be forthcoming.
- The Provost's goal of moving our ranking from 121 to 100 in three years. This would mean being ranked close to places like U Kansas, U Nebraska, or Iowa State. What resources will it require to do this? Are there better ways of expending our resources?

As regards master's students, various comments included: The goal only concerns those programs where the students are tuition paying. This can bring in money to subsidize other activities. Under RCM, we should expect to see enthusiastic participation because much of the income will come to the colleges housing these programs. We must be careful that all programs are academically rigorous and ethical. The issue of finding graduate teaching assistants in the arts was raised. The possibility of returning to the use of "gradjunct" faculty was suggested and is a discussion that we want to continue.

Another of the Provost's agenda items is a move towards more merit-based student aid and away from need based aid. The assumption is that increasing merit-based aid will indirectly result in increased resources for need based aid down the road. It is not clear that this in fact will happen, no "proof of concept."

Concerning rankings, after some discussion, we achieved general agreement that we need to look at what other high ranking schools have done to improve their positions. It was pointed out that US News will provide consultants to work with schools. It was further mentioned that the Law school recently did successfully undertake to improve its rankings. Maybe we can learn from them how they did it.

New Business:

Newman described his experience of learning of a colleagues death only accidentally when he went to the department's web site. He would be willing to let the Herald be a place where such transitions could be announced, but is not sure how to gather the information. There was a short discussion, it was suggested that HR could provide information about deaths of current faculty members and might be willing to. Learning about emeritus faculty could be more difficult. He will speak with HR.

A member asked if there was further news about faculty invitations to the President's Inaugural. Rahdert announced that it will be open to faculty on a first come, first served rsvp basis. There is an email to that effect that just circulated.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.
Secretary