

**Representative Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 8, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Representative Senators and Officers: 50  
Ex-officio: 1  
Faculty, Administrators and Guests: 13  
Total attendance: 64

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:47 PM

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

**President's Report:**

President Rahdert met with the president of Temple Student Government. Student Government requests that the faculty participate in the "Cherry on" campaign by wearing red on Fridays.

Rahdert reminded us that President Theobald's inaugural is coming up soon and urged us all to participate in the various events it will include.

The FSSC has been and will be meeting with various officials:

- Peter Jones to discuss ESFF's and student access to some of the data they generate
- Provost Dai to discuss some of the decisions made over the summer without faculty input, and to discuss the bases for some recent tenure decisions. Without considering specific individual cases, we considered the need for clarification of standards and procedural changes in the tenure process. This was a frank discussion, but work remains to be done.
- The FSSC passed the following resolution: "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.

**Vice President's Report (presented by the secretary):**

The secretary thanked all who have volunteered to serve on our various committees this year, and pointed out several committees which still are incomplete with the request that all senators pass this information on to their schools and colleges.

**Dialog with Dai:**

Provost Dai announced several new initiatives. These include further development of online education. He discussed the consortium that we joined over the summer with observer status. Later we may become a full member. He sees our use of distance education preceding as follows:

- Make distance education an effective means of serving our satellite and international campuses.
- Help faculty to learn to develop quality courses.
- Consider MOOC for carefully selected material.

He is establishing a new unit in the TLC to coach and support creation of online content, and has created a new Office of Online & Distance Learning to organize degree programs. This will be housed in University College.

The Provost's presentation was followed by a series of questions and answers:

- How will the report of the Committee on Standards co-chaired by McGarvey and Schifter be used in establishing best practices for distance learning? Answer: This report will become an "integral reference."
- Many faculties have expressed concern to the union about the way in which the proof of marriage for health insurance was handled. The questioner knows that the Provost is not responsible, but wants to bring it to his attention. The way it was handled sends a message that the University does not respect its employees. Answer: Provost Dai shares the same concerns and will look into it.

At this point, the discussion returned to the Tenure and Promotion denials. The Provost stated that he had discussed this matter at the previous Senate meeting. He pointed out that 40+ cases came to the Provost and he reversed six of them. He explained that he was not setting a percentage that should be denied. He repeated that it is his responsibility to bring his best judgment to each case.

He explained again that he felt that five outside letters is too few because it leaves problems if there are four strong letters and one weak one. A single weak letter is easier to ignore if it is one of eight rather than one of five.

Further questions and answers:

- You said that 60% of tenure decisions were turned down at Penn. Will you reconsider your thoughts no that we know that was a large overestimate? Answer: The provost never meant to suggest that a particular percentage of denials should be our goal.
- Law schools are bound by accreditation standards which state that faculty should have primary control of the tenure process. Answer: We have a procedure to follow and we will follow it.
- Is it true that five of the candidates turned down were women? Answer: The Provost does not know. Moreover five of the seven were not turned down. They withdrew from the process.

At this point, Professor Angel – LAW proposed the following motion:

"In order to allow quality, focused discussion at Senate and Representative Senate Meetings, anyone (faculty, administrator, trustee, student, staff, or any other invited guest) scheduled to speak and/or present at an upcoming meeting shall e-mail a detailed memo, detailed outline, and/or detailed PowerPoint presentation of the points the speaker/presenter plans to make at least three business days before the relevant meeting.

Timely notice will allow Senators to prepare for the speaker/presenter and to focus their time on only those points

that need clarification and/or discussions.”

The motion was discussed. It was suggested by several that the motion needs to be more flexible. President Rahdert was asked: “what was the relationship between this motion and the resolution earlier passed by the FSSC?” Rahdert answered that the FSSC resolution at the moment is a guideline and provides current default behavior.

Newman CLA proposed amending the motion to add “except in case of emergency.” This was accepted by Professor Angel.

After further discussion, LaFollette-CST moved to amend the motion by striking the entire text and replacing it with “The Representative Senate endorses the resolution previously passed by the FSSC and read earlier in this meeting.”

The motion to amend was passed.

The amended motion was also passed.

**Guest Jodi Laufgraben:**

Laufgraben explained the process by which the new central committee for programs and courses will be organized and begin operations. Her presentation is well summarized by her PowerPoint slides which are included as an appendix to these minutes.

There followed considerable discussion about the manner in which this committee is to be formed. The concerns centered upon whether the number of faculty is sufficient, and whether it would be better if faculty members on the committee were selected by the FSSC rather than suggested by the FSSC. It was largely agreed that election/selection by a faculty body would be better than sending nominations to the Provost and allowing him to select from those nominees.

The question was asked as to why committee does not duplicate the work of EPPC. Answer: EPPC only looks programs/courses that involve more than one school. This committee will be in addition to, not instead of EPPC and the Graduate School.

**Old Business:**

Professor Rahdert asked that any school or college having difficulty establishing their budget review committee please inform him of the problems.

**New Business:**

None

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr

Secretary