

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, January 28, 2014
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), Deborah Howe (SED), Forrest Huffman (FSBM), Michael Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Chip Jungreis (TUSM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Steve Newman (Fac. Herald), Michael Sachs (CHP), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Karen M. Turner (SMC), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Robert Reinstein (Law)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the December 3, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report:

President Rahdert reported that last week there was an informal telephone meeting to discuss potential agenda items for the upcoming semester. The following were brought forth:

1. The continuing need to collect information about the functioning of collegial budget committees. Huffman is trying to get information from the FSBM committee. At today's meeting we appointed a committee consisting of Huffman, Newman, and Sachs to get information from other schools and colleges.
2. Senate elections. Cheryl has prepared a draft timeline. Shapiro, Turner, and Jackson agreed to serve as this year's nominating committee. Rahdert stressed the need to recruit a pipeline of younger faculty to provide the next generation of leaders needed for the Senate. Another member suggested that it might be helpful to have a leadership workshop to expose people to the role of the FSSC.
3. Institutional advancement. Rahdert will talk with Tilghman Moyer about ways in which the Senate can be involved.
4. Improving our interactions with the Board of Trustees. Judge McKee, chairman of the board's academic affairs committee, will be visiting the FSSC this semester.
5. Status of the dean's review process. Mike Sitler has informed Rahdert that by the end of next week the committee membership will be finalized.

Q: Why were these particular deans (Law, Dentistry, and TUJ) chosen?

A: The university has said that these are all deans who have served 5 years and are therefore due to be evaluated. This gets them into their proper cycle.

6. We need a new editor for the Faculty Herald.

7. Status of adjunct professors and best practices for their deployment.

Q: What criteria are used in deciding what adjunct and NTT faculty to hire, re-hire, and promotion.

A: It was announced that the Provost has agreed to do an article for the Herald about NTT's and multi-year contracts. Rahdert will contact the Provost and ask about consistent standards. It was suggested that we should check with the union as well. One representative said that he had checked with his dean and was informed that his college was already well above 50% multi-year contracts for NTT's.

8. Should we have an FSSC retreat this semester? What about an FSSC sponsored symposium.

Vice President's Report:

- We have a request from the Writing Center for nominations to the Writing Intensive Committee. This is not a Senate committee, but the Center generally does us the courtesy of asking us for suggestions.
- Jones (Senate Vice President) has spoken with Jones (Sr. Vice Provost) about the SFF committee. The Vice Provost does indeed regard this committee as a Senate committee. He has no problems with term limits for its members, and likes the idea of a faculty co-chair for the committee.
- The Senate Vice President is working with Brooke Walker, Assistant Vice President for Global Partnerships and Programs & International Student and Scholar Services, to propose expansion of the Committee for International Programs. This would become a two-part committee, one part for study abroad, the other to provide support for those students from abroad studying here at Temple. Walker also likes the idea this committee having co-chairs.
- Jones has also been in conversation with Sharon Boyle, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, and with Diane Maleson, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs, about ways of facilitating increased communication between their offices and the FSSC. Boyle and Maleson would also support the creation of a task force to look at issues affecting adjuncts.

Q: What about the Honors Oversight Committee

A: Jones has reached out to Ruth Ost, director of the Honors Program, and will follow up with her.

Guest- Jodi Laufgraben, Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Assessment, and Research:

Dr. Laufgraben presented us with more information about the new "Fly in Four" program, designed to improve our four year graduation rate. The Universities of Buffalo and Minnesota were two of the models used in designing this program.

The program will:

- present each incoming freshman with a four year plan to graduation
- Improve the DARS forms to provide to students a better idea of where they stand
- Enhance the listings in our course catalogs

Transfer students can participate if they are able to graduate in a total of four years counting their time in other institutions.

Q: Some students may prefer to graduate in 5 years so as to lighten their semesterly loads and thus get a better GPA

A: The summer can provide some of this flexibility.

Q: Will the summer become a part of the planning process?

A: No, the summer will be seen as a way of increasing flexibility if needed.

One member wondered about whether financial aid would be available for summer study, and also how this program would interact with distance learning or MOOC's.

There was some discussion about the usefulness of having pre-requisite requirements greater than C-.

Laufgraben replied that the Provost wants to take this opportunity to revisit and hopefully streamline all of our undergraduate programs with respect to various roadblocks to four year graduation. This will include a comprehensive request to schools and colleges that they revisit their pre-requisite structure.

Q: How will this program and RCM interact? Small classes help student success. RCM encourages large classes.

A: We have not looked into that.

Q: How will programs dependant upon internships be impacted?

A: Online studies are being looked at. It may be necessary to consider limiting the size of some programs.

Guests – Darin Bartholomew, Sonia Galiber, Cree Moore, Temple University Student Government Officers

President Bartholomew identified four areas of interest to TSG this semester:

- ESFF's and the students' ability to view part of the results online
- Possible development of an honor code
- Safety in our campus buildings
- The new Fly in Four program

Comment from one of our members: The online availability of SFF data to students may be a breach of confidential personnel data.

Q: How will students be using the SFF data?

A: This will provide more convenient and more accurate data about courses and professors than is available from places like ratemyprofessor.com. The students hope that the web access will be expanded to allow easy access to the web pages for specific courses or professors, syllabi, and so on.

Comment: One problem with the data released is that the number of students answering the survey is not disclosed. This makes it difficult to assign meaning to the data.

Comment: The number of sections taught is also not disclosed. Also, teaching excellence is not always well correlated with evaluations.

Q: Will the proposed honor code be purely academic, or will it also involve issues of student life?

A: Just academic matters.

Q: Would you want an honor code for faculty?

Comment from FSSC member: We do have an implicit honor code built into our hiring and tenuring assumptions.

Comment: Many honor codes include a requirement to report others who violate the honor code. The commentor finds this to be “creepy.”

A: We would probably not want to include that as a requirement of the proposed honor code.

Comment: This code should not just be a legal document. One must consider both the ethic of legality and the ethic of care.

Comment: With regard to the ALERT system, what is the best way to get the attention of our students in an emergency?

A: Most students prefer texting or email. Social media are a distant third.

This began an extended discussion about the virtues of texting vs. email in the interaction between students and faculty. The final consensus was that our students need to realize that following their email is part of their responsibility in their course work

Q: Regarding Fly in Four. Would a promise of no tuition increases over your four year time at Temple be a reasonable incentive to participate?

A: Not sure yet, but the university needs to find some kind of enticements.

Q: How do you feel about the way the Board of Trustees announced the ending of certain athletic programs?

A: We believe that the decision is final, that the matter is over. It is our job now to make sure that the students involved get the care they need.

A discussion of this matter followed, mostly centering on the timing of the announcements and the probability that it affected at least the performance of some of the affected students on their final exams and projects.

Q: How do you feel about students who book flights home for the winter break which are scheduled to be before the exam period, then try to get their instructors to give their exams early?

A: Students should prioritize their education over travel.

This started a short discussion about the importance of giving and taking exams during the times they are scheduled. It is Temple policy that this be done.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.

Secretary