

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, February 11, 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 1:04 PM

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of February 4, 2014 were approved as distributed.

President's Report:

President Rahdert reported that he had shared with CHART our comments about an unofficial Spring Fling. They will work with the Greek groups and with us to develop consistent messaging. They will also work with deans to reach our adjunct faculty.

An *ad hoc* committee to consider Temple's closing policy in the event of bad weather has been formed. It consists of Matthew Miller, Michael Jackson, and Fabienne Darling-Wolf.

Rahdert has recently met with Tilghman Moyer about institutional development. He learned that each school or college will be taxed based on a formula involving the number of alumni and the number of donations greater than \$1000.00. This tax will support central development activities. President Theobald has informed the deans that they are expected to be active fund raisers as well. Their fundraising will become a part of the decanal review process.

The University will provide one development officer per college. Schools with more than one are probably paying for the extra personnel themselves.

Rahdert also met with Michele Masucci. She explained that funds that used to be available through the Provost's office for research have disappeared. Therefore, no matching funds, no temporary support, and no startup research grants will be available from the Provost. She has asked for additional funds or her office to be used for these purposes. She will be working with RPPC and with us to decide how to administer these funds.

An FSSC member asked Rahdert if he had ever met with the Council of Deans.

A: No

Q: Perhaps the Senate president should explain to the Council of /Deans what we (the FSSC and Senate) are all about so that they can better understand the Senate.

Rahdert reported that the Dean's review committees have been appointed in the Schools of Law and Dentistry.

Q: Is the policy statement regarding these reviews being used?

A: It is referenced in the cover memo to these committees.

Comment: The third paragraph of the cover memo sounds very little like the policy statement.

Q: Is there not a representative of the Provost's office on these committees.

A: Michael Sitler is chairing at least one of the committees.

Rahdert announced that there are some tickets available for the upcoming men's basketball game with U. Connecticut. FSSC members may request up to 2.

Vice President's Report:

Brooke Walker is enthusiastic about increasing the size of the International Affairs Committee as it is to be split into two working sub-committees.

Jeffrey Solow (BCMD) moved that the size of the International Affairs Committee be increased by two members for each sub-committee.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Senate Agenda:

At the upcoming Representative Senate meeting, Vice President Jones will talk about the process for nominating elected committee members, and Past President Shapiro will discuss the process of nominating officers.

Paul LaFollette (CST) and Secretary – made the following motion:

The Nominating Committee has, in the past, at the time nominations are announced, distinguished between the slate of nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee, and those nominees brought forth by petition. The FSSC affirms its belief that this is a proper for the Nominating Committee to follow.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Guest – Judge McKee, Member of the Board of Trustees and Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board

Rahdert introduced Judge McKee and briefly explained to him the purposes of the Faculty Senate and the FSSC.

Judge McKee began by making two points:

- The Academic Affairs Committee is involved in the tenure process. The new policy for T&P includes flexibility to recognize differences between individual disciplines. In particular, in special circumstances where it may be difficult to get the normally expected number of outside letters of recommendation, a smaller number will suffice.

- He hopes that the Fly in Four program will eventually have built into it a mechanism for dispute resolution through a neutral, objective body.

Comment: We have communications issues in many areas. Many decisions are made that would benefit from faculty input, but none is requested. This can lead to misunderstanding and grief.

A: Judge McKee totally agrees.

Next, there followed a discussion of various ways of increasing lines of communication between the FSSC and the Board. One suggestion was that certain Board committees reserve one agenda item for items coming from the Senate.

Comment: RCM will bring pressure to increase class size. This is going to make it more difficult for certain programs to have mandatory internships. A comment from an FSSC member began a discussion of the fact that some disciplines are being asked, in the name of Fly in Four, to lower the required grades for pre-requisites. Faculty in these disciplines have typically spent considerable time working out what level of success in pre-requisites leads to success in following courses, and do not want to be asked to change what is working and what is in our students' best interest.

Judge McKee asked whether problems such as these could be brought to the Provost.

Comment: There is increasing pressure to find "one size fits all" solutions to problems. Adjunct faculty members are in a situation where much of that pressure falls upon them.

- Pressure to allow increased class sizes.
- Pressure towards grade inflation.
- Pressure from teaching evaluations.

A: The Academic Affairs Committee has not had any discussions about adjunct faculty.

An FSSC member identified two areas of tension.

1. Tension between a desire to increase our stature and US News rankings on the one hand, and our historic mission on the other. We seem to be giving much more aid to students with high SAT's at the expense of lower scoring students, leaving more dependant upon loans.
2. We claim that we want to increase our expenditures on academics, but RCM seems to work against this.

Another FSSC member expressed frustration at the fact that our Senate President sits at the table at all public Board meetings, yet is expected to sit silently and has no vote.

It was suggested that perhaps appropriate Board committees could have one open meeting a year at which a faculty member could speak to them.

An FSSC member expressed his unhappiness that Temple cut seven sports but that the academic community never had the opportunity to comment on this decision.

Q: What is the sense of discussion around tenure in your committee:

A: We feel that the change in the number of letters is a good thing. Earlier presidents may have made tenure too easy. Judge McKee's real concern is what kind of process for redress and the evaluation of countervailing opinions is present in the process.

An FSSC member suggested that perhaps the Board could investigate what constitutes best practices in other comparable Universities with respect to faculty and student opportunity to give input to their Boards of Trustees.

An FSSC member brought up our ongoing difficulty in getting information about the demographics of our various categories of faculty – TT, NTT, and adjunct. We have requested this information many times, and while it is promised, it is never forthcoming.

A: Make another request, and CC judge McKee.

There followed a short discussion as to who remembers carbon paper.

The discussion returned to matters of tenure. One member complained that the change in the number of letters came with too little notice. Another observed that increased attention needs to be made to the recommendations at the level of departments and colleges. A third suggested that we need to revisit the balance in the tenure process between scholarship, teaching, and service.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.

Secretary