

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Rahdert (Pres.), Tricia Jones (Vice Pres.), Paul LaFollette (Secy.), Joan Shapiro (Past-Pres.), Mark Anderson (Law), Li Bai (Engr), Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Cheri Carter (SSW), Deborah Howe (SED), Michael Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Chip Jungreis (TUSM), Stephanie Knopp (Tyl), Jim Korsh (CST), Matthew Miller (TFMA), 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: Forrest Huffman (FSBM)

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the March 25th meeting were approved as corrected.

President's Report – President Rahdert

President Rahdert distributed a flyer publicizing the Senate election and urged that we post it in our schools and colleges.

Catherine Schifter has been appointed to a new budget committee, the Budget and Financial Affairs Advisory Committee. We are not quite sure where this committee came from. The majority of the members are from the administration. The charge is to oversee the processes and policies used in implementing the new budget model.

President Rahdert and Vice President Jones met with Provost Dai. Among other things, the Provost confirmed that there is a committee that makes recommendations to the Provost about the high level hires. He also indicated that he is not happy with the role of the Council of Deans in the tenure process. He is looking for other options. They discussed possible ways of expanding of the role of the UTPAC. He would be agreeable to the idea of returning to the process of having the UTPAC review all cases.

One member commented that the Provost has strongly implied that he does not trust the faculty to make responsible tenure decisions. Another said that he appears to regard the letters from outside of the university as the primary pieces of evidence.

The search for the new person to head up online and distance learning is underway. The Provost would also like to centralize the university's distribution of research funds. He believes that the Senate's committee should concentrate on grants to investigators whose research has no external funding component.

He confirmed that Research NTT's and Clinical NTT's are not counted in the goal to give 60% of our NTT's multi-year contracts.

He was asked about the announced decision earlier this year to form a committee to deal with LGBT issues. He is not sure of the status of this committee.

Finally, the Provost suggested that we have a special meeting of the Senate in May to discuss the master plan.

Q: When Barton is razed, do we have a plan for where the classes will meet that would have met there?

A: Barton will not be demolished until the science building is completed.

After a brief discussion about retiring faculty, Sachs CHPSW made the following motion:

That all 10 of the faculty members retiring this year be honored at the final Senate meeting this year.

The motion carried.

We also agreed to give coffee mugs to all those FSSC members who are rotating off this year.

We had a brief discussion about the April Senate meeting. Ken Kaiser will report on RCM and the budget.

Q: Have we heard anything about our request for demographic data?

A: We should have received it by now. We have not.

The Provost told the officers that he is very interested in the diversity symposium planned for next fall.

Vice President's Report – Tricia Jones

There are still openings for two people on UTPAC. It would be to our benefit to get them appointed as quickly as possible. The same is true of EPPC.

TUGSA Letter

After a lively discussion, it was decided that Rahdert will draft an acknowledgement of receipt and a possible response.

Guest Karen Clarke – VP for Strategic Marketing and Communications

Clarke began by telling us that she has been here for nine months now. She is charged with investigating our branding and marketing. She explained that she is not visiting us today to announce any plans for new marketing, but rather to get information and opinions from us. She expressed a strong support of shared governance.

During a long dialog, the following points were touched on by various FSSC members:

- The tension that exists between our traditional Conwellian mission and our desire to increase our rankings.
- How to do a better job of selling our history.
- We enjoyed a brief discussion of Clarke’s portfolio and organizational chart
- Whether and how the matter of termination of certain sports could have been better handled. Among other things, Clarke said that we need to make more use of faculty expertise. “Shared governance helps everyone.”
- Temple students have a lot of “grit.” We do not get this message out well.
- We should not remove academics from our marketing.
- Many of our faculty came to Temple because of its Conwellian mission. Social justice is what many of us are about.

The discussion ended with several of our members telling the stories of how they came to Temple and why they stayed.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

Paul S. LaFollette, Jr.
Secretary