

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2014 - 1:45 PM
Kiva Auditorium
Videoconference: HSC, 343 MERB – AMBLER, ALC201
Minutes

Attendance:

Representative senators and officers: 43
Ex-officios: 0
Faculty, administrators, and guests: 12

Call to Order:

Vice President How called the meeting to order at 1:54 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the October 14, 2014 meeting were approved as amended.

President's Report:

There was no President's Report.

Vice President's Report:

Four new appointments to CATA were approved. These included Jin Jun Luo (TUSM), Timothy Patterson (COE), Laurie Friedman (CPH), and Robert Raffa (Pharmacy).

Kenneth Kusmer was approved for appointment to the University Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee.

Guests:

Elizabeth Sweet, Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, and Karen Turner provided a report on the fall Diversity Symposium held on October 28, 2014, followed by discussion and recommendations for next steps. The event was very well attended and drew more than 800 Temple students, staff, and faculty, along with members of the community. Additionally, multiple Trustees and Chancellor Englert participated in the Symposium. The morning's Speak Out session generated more than 3000 written responses to a series of five questions addressing diversity issues at Temple University, which will require some time to review in depth. The event featured a Proclamation from Mayor Nutter, who spoke with the group. Joyce Wilkerson and Kenneth Lawrence spoke about university relationships with the community. One recommendation that was identified as a next step was for a "Presidential Blue Ribbon Committee" to help identify ways of ensuring that Temple's diversity can grow and thrive. Concrete suggestions toward this aim include joining the National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development, creating a Provost's Diversity Pool, conducting a Climate Study, institutionalizing Annual Events around diversity at Temple, "Game Spaces" to bring people together, talks in resident halls and other "safe spaces," along with opportunities for Student and Community Activities.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for discussion.

Cheryl Mack (Faculty Senate Office): Are there plans to repeat this event, perhaps on an annual basis, and to include greater community involvement and participation?

Art Hochner (Fox and TAUP): Dr. Hochner expressed interest in having talks with the committee about TAUP's involvement in a subsequent event.

Jane Evans (Tyler): Are there plans to move forward with a two-pronged approach to redressing decreases in diversity at Temple, specifically by working with faculty and with students?

Karen Turner noted the importance of including all stakeholders in a Presidential Committee.

Stephanie Knopp (Tyler): Professor Knopp underscored the need to continue/repeat this process and the importance of a comprehensive report from the first Symposium to ensure that the full scope of diversity-related activities across a very large campus can be fully conveyed.

Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon noted the support of the Faculty Senate in this process, including its presence on the agenda for the December Council of Deans meeting.

Joseph Schwartz (CLA): Professor Schwartz underscored the importance of having much more detailed data from the administration regarding diversity issues at Temple University, and that this data should include information about, for example, rank, tenure track status, and full or part time status for faculty, and better data on the student body including socioeconomic status, proportion of first-generation college students, Pell grant recipients, and so forth.

Kimberly Williams (CLA): Dr. Williams expressed her willingness to build links with the community and her students regarding diversity.

Temple University's Campus Master Plan

Mark Rahdert (Law): Past President Rahdert notes that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee expects to meet with James Creedon, Senior Vice President for Construction, Facilities, and Operations, regarding the campus master plan, and so the FSSC needs to hear back questions and concerns about the plan so that they can be discussed in that forum.

Paul Toth (CLA): While commending the technological advances proposed for the new library, there is also some concern about the potential for "low tech" kinds of assistance provided by librarians. For example open consultation spaces without a lot of specialization or automated stacks that cannot be browsed in the usual fashion might undermine opportunities for student learning as well as the role of librarians as partners in the research process.

Robert Kauffman (CLA): In several buildings where classroom renovations are planned, particularly within CLA, no parallel renovations to faculty space are planned and this is a potential source of concern.

Joseph Schwartz (CLA): If we are to be a great research institution, it is imperative that the humanities and liberal arts be valued and preserved, consistent with our peer and aspirational institutions. Much of the space occupied by these departments is substandard, plans for improvements and upgrades are not clear and when present may distance faculty offices from teaching spaces, thus making it more difficult for students to interact with faculty outside of class settings.

Jane Evans (Tyler): Having access to high quality teaching space, and should not be an afterthought. Likewise, while open spaces are visually appealing, they are not always useful for thoughtful research and when there is need for more private interaction.

Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (TFMA): Tearing down Barton Hall removes studio space for teaching students. Where on campus will theater be located? We need to ensure that the art are represented and supported on campus.

Cynthia Folio (Boyer): Dean Lucia is very receptive to input and suggestions and should be engaged by faculty in the discussions around library facilities.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Art Hochner (Fox, TAUP): The new contract has implications for the faculty senate. Three side letters were agreed to. Two directly involve the faculty senate: tuition benefits (e.g., possible tuition exchange programs), and child care (e.g., on site day care). A third addresses collegial assemblies and workload to formulate college-level workload, release time, services, class sizes, etc.

Mary Conran (Fox): A reminder that Global Temple will be Wednesday, November 12, starting at 9 in the Student Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Adam Davey
Secretary

Next Meeting: University Faculty Senate, Thursday, December 4, 2014, 1:45 pm