

Representative Senate Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 - 1:45 PM
Kiva Auditorium
Videoconference: HSC, 343 MERB – AMBLER, ALC201
Minutes

Attendance:

Representative Senators and officers: 35
Ex-officios: 1
Faculty, administrators, and guests: 10

Call to Order:

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:49 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 5, 2014 meeting were approved. There was one abstention.

President's Report:

a. Council of Deans / FSSC Retreat (Dec. 5, 2014)

In follow up to this fall's diversity symposium, it was decided that a task force on diversity will be created, and further support will be provided for analysis of data collected during the diversity symposium.

b. Budget Review Committee Best Practices

The workshops to be held this spring will include the CFO and individuals from the college financial offices.

c. Taskforce on Adjunct Faculty Issues (Dec.12, 2014)

The first meeting of the taskforce was held on December 12. A subcommittee has been formed with Leadership Academy 9 participants to construct a survey for adjunct faculty with a goal of mounting the survey by late February with a report to follow later in the semester. A subcommittee was also formed on best practices within each College and School. Work continues with HR to map the nature of current adjunct faculty.

d. Taskforce on ADR

There is some consideration of the role of an ombudsperson in relation to the VPFA. Initial orientation is that such an independent role would be important and align with practices of peer institutions.

e. Expanded Communication Networks

It does not appear to be possible to offer Faculty Senate meetings via Webex as long as they are held in Kiva.

f. Shared Governance

The Collegial Assembly resolution was revisited with President Theobald during a meeting with the FSSC on January 13. More work needs to be done to ensure that these bodies are as robust as needed. Susan Smith clarified aspects of by-laws, notably around requests for the by-law revision process, "default" by-laws, and timely processing of by-law revisions by university council.

g. Dean's Reviews

Two Dean will be reviewed this spring (ENG, ARTS). Faculty will be selected for participation via collegial assembly nominations, FSSC nominations, Provost selection within unit, and Provost selection external to unit.

h. Strengthening Shared Governance

Clarification of language related to faculty senate committees, examination of FS by-laws, and the Committee on Revision of the Faculty Handbook are areas of work underway.

i. Side-letter and UTPAC Issues

Tuition benefits at other universities, childcare, and faculty workload, and UTPAC changes are all topics covered by side-letters to the contract that will require considerable discussion.

Vice President's Report:

Steven Balsam was reapproved to serve on the Budget Review Committee.

Provost's Office:

The Provost described work on development of a 2+2 program in Shenzhen, China that is eventually designed to serve approximately 200 students. Significant faculty involvement is expected around curriculum design.

Plans are in place to establish a viable career services office, working with Peter Jones.

Work is underway in the research office regarding issues such as compliance and technology transfer, and research business management.

Faculty should have received information about targeted research area grants emphasizing interdisciplinary research and the President's initiative in the humanities and arts.

Most colleges are at or above last year's target of having 60% of NTT faculty on multi-year contracts. This year's goal is 67%.

The alumni giving rate currently stands at 6.5%. Work is underway to increase this number.

To graduate with a Temple degree, students now need to earn 60 credits from the university, up from 45. The transfer credit minimum requirement has been changed from C- to C. One goal is for greater transparency in which credits students may transfer in to Temple (e.g., calculator like at Penn State). Faculty supervision of trained professional staff is proposed in order to ensure that transfer students bring as many relevant credits with them to Temple as possible.

Jane Evans (TYLER): This has been done in the past, notably through EPPC. Is it no longer being done?

Provost: It is being done, but needs to be improved. Faculty oversight will continue, and EPPC is an appropriate mechanism.

Mark Rahdert (LAW): Supportive of idea of trained professional staff; importance of mechanisms and faculty oversight needs to be underscored with EPPC at the center of it.

Provost: We will certainly adhere to that advice.

Guests: Art Hochner, TAUP President, on side letters

Hochner: Overarching goal was to move the Council of Deans out of the promotion and tenure process and provide greater disciplinary oversight. All dossiers, not just those with less than unanimous support, will now be handled by one of the subcommittees. Workload will be more manageable if each committee considers only a subset of dossiers.

Jeffrey Solow (BOYER): What does into a side letter as opposed to the contract?

Hochner: Things that are more temporary, generally.

Katherine Bauer (CPH): My understanding is that, at most institutions tenure decisions made at the departmental or college level are typically affirmed by levels above. Given that this is adding an additional layer of review above the college, I would like to understand perspectives on how this process could help faculty, and specifically how it might help to avoid conflicting decisions as we have seen in recent years.

Hochner: Hopefully, this process will improve the situation. The contract states that the standards should be appropriate to the discipline.

Joseph Schwartz (CLA):

Hochner: I don't know. As was stated many times during the discussion, each of these is an independent level of review.

Trish Jones (EDUC): The FSSC will be considering these issues at their next meeting. First, what are your thoughts on processes and individuals who should have input into the discussions? Second, to which extent do you think we should be taking seriously the language of disciplines and subdisciplines?

Mark Rahdert (LAW): We need policies and procedures, thought out in advance, on who makes determinations about which committee should be requested to best perform a review, and when and how that request should be made.

Gregory Urwin (CLA): What is the possible downside from this approach?

Trish Jones (EDUC): There may be more ambiguity in definition of discipline or subdiscipline.

Trish Jones (EDUC): Sometimes college guidelines do not provide that level of specific guidance and direction.

Hochner: We have them, but now, college and university guidelines are mandated by the contract.

President Jones invited Art Hochner to provide some context on the three remaining side letters

Hochner: Committees will be formed including faculty interested in each issue. More information will follow. Collegial assemblies can deal with the issue of workload.

Hochner: Adjunct faculty have filed a petition with the state labor board for representation and so we are planning to meet with management and preparing for the hearing in anticipation of an election.

Trish Jones reiterated the position of neutrality of the faculty senate on this issue. More information will follow.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Adam Davey
Secretary

Next Meeting: Representative Faculty Senate, Monday, February 16, 2015, 1:45 pm