

Representative Senate Meeting
Monday, February 16, 2015 - 1:45 PM
Kiva Auditorium
Videoconference: HSC, 343 MERB – AMBLER, ALC201

Minutes

Attendance:

Representative Senators and officers: 33

Ex-officios: 0

Faculty, administrators, and guests: 3

Call to Order:

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

President's Report:

Update on Adjunct Faculty Task Force

Because of the petition for representation by Temple's adjunct faculty, it is essential to wait until this issue is resolved before returning to the planned survey of adjunct faculty.

Update on RCM budget review work

Workshops for each school and college are unlikely to happen this semester. However, an open call to all faculty will be circulated, most likely the week following spring break.

Faculty Athletics representative

Michael Jackson (STHM) noted that a tenured faculty member must occupy this key 5-year appointment. Nominations are sought; interested members should contact Chancellor Englert or Professor Jackson.

UTPAC

More than 60 faculty participated in the Webex and in person meeting on Friday, February 13, on changes to UTPAC under the new contract. Significant ambiguity, short timeline, and a collaborative intent but difficulty navigating these changes were some of the themes that emerged from the discussion. Faculty input is critical now.

Vice President's Report:

Budget Review Committee Appointments

Two appointments were made to the budget review committee. Nancy Turner (LIBRARY) and Jane Evans (TYLER) were appointed and reappointed, respectively.

Language changes for Senate Committees

Changes were implemented to the language of the senate committees to align them more closely with current practice. Specifically, two consecutive terms will normally be permitted.

Elections process

Elections materials will be due for elected positions on faculty senate committees by Monday, March 9, 2015. Appointed membership on two additional committees (tuition benefits and childcare) will circulate in the near future.

Mark Rahdert (LAW): The nominating committee timeline differs from the elections committee. A slate of candidates is required a week before they are due to the faculty senate. Thus credentials and supporting documents will be required by February 25 so that it can be considered in time for full review. Additional nominations can be considered up until March 9.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Resolution on Faculty Senate Neutrality on Adjunct Faculty Unionization

The Resolution on Faculty Senate Neutrality on Adjunct Faculty Unionization approved by the FSSC on February 2, 2015 was read aloud.

Gregory Urwin (CLA): Why is this resolution necessary?

Jeffrey Solow (BOYER): The absence of statement leaves our position open to interpretation and potentially misinterpretation.

Trish Jones (EDUC): Many groups are unsure of where the faculty senate stands. This resolution can serve to clarify our position. We are a deliberate body that believes in self-determination.

Wilbert Roget (CLA): What are some of these “better ways” of supporting adjunct faculty at Temple?

Trish Jones (EDUC): Adjunct faculty are not always at the same level of voice in garnering support and resources for their work as full time faculty.

The resolution was approved by a hand vote, with eighteen in favor, four opposed and no abstentions.

Open Discussion of Initial FSSC Consideration on UTPAC

UTPAC is being reshaped into 3 separate and independent discipline-based committees

(A: Humanities and Arts; B: Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering, C: Social Sciences, Business, and Law)

If changes to the committees should be indicated, can the contract be modified? If so, what is the process? Specifications worth consideration include the lack of communication between Committees A, B, and C and whether the number and designation of committees sufficient to cover the scope of professional work and scholarship at Temple University.

Suggestions include that each committee’s members should come from disciplines centrally identified with that committee. Protocols guiding operation and process of all committees should be provided to insure predictability in process.

Aspects of UTPAC operation should be a possible focus of faculty rebuttal statements following negative recommendations. The appeals process should be clarified.

Questions: Do current UTPAC members cycle in to the new committees? If not, how will staggered terms be enacted? What is the timing of elections to these committees? Can a case be seen by more than one committee at a faculty member's request? Should term limits apply to all UTPAC members, both elected and appointed?

Suggestions: Each program/department should be asked to identify under one of the UTPAC committees by the end of spring, 2015. Each faculty member should have the right to petition for review under a UTPAC committee different from their program.

Questions around self-identification were presented on President Jones' slides (distributed via listserv).

Consistency with other policies: Recommendation that President Theobald convene a task force to revisit existing presidential P&T guidelines to ensure that they clarify UTPAC role and re-emphasize the primacy of local and consistency of review expectations.

Deans have been asked by the Provost to update college/school P&T guidelines. Grandfathering should be considered in cases currently up for review.

Faculty handbook must be revised to include changes to UTPAC

Changes and clarifications to UTPAC constitution and operations should be announced by the end of Spring, 2015 (i.e., prior to summer).

Art Hochner (FOX, TAUP): What full time tenure track professional faculty feel they do not fit into the current structure? Nothing in the contract precludes faculty from chairing these committees. The VPFA is the convener, but does not weigh in with substantive considerations. What is the rationale for requiring the three committees to communicate with one another?

Robert Mason (CLA): Several departments, such as GUS or Psychology, span multiple disciplines. Different mechanisms may be required for them.

Catherine Panzarella (CLA): Does this same process apply as well to promotion for non-tenure track faculty?

Katherine Bauer (CPH): Communication between committees seems imperative for interdisciplinary committees to prevent "drift" in committee missions over time.

Looking at Workload and CA side letter discussions

Changes in academic calendar and scheduling (e.g., multiple potentially overlapping summer sessions) have implications for workload. What constitutes a "fair" distribution of workload is important. What is the faculty input into this workload?

Jeffrey Solow (BOYER): This year's calendar with fall and spring adjustment resulted in high levels of faculty dissatisfaction.

James Korsh (CST): It might be helpful for the faculty senate to communicate directly with the deans about the role of the CA in these matters.

Susan Dickey (CPH): CPH has not had any collegial assembly meetings this year; the next scheduled one is in May.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Adam Davey
Secretary

Next Meeting: Representative Faculty Senate, Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 1:45 pm