

Minutes  
Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
3B Conwell Hall

Attendance:

Present: Tricia Jones (Pres.), Deborah Howe (Vice Pres.), Adam Davey (Secy.), Mark Rahdert (Past-Pres.), Raghbir Athwal (TUSM), Li Bai (Engr), Jane Evans (TYL), Michael W. Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Jim Korsh (CST), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Michael Sachs (CPH), Catherine Schifter (Educ), Joseph Schwartz (CLA), James Shellenberger (LAW), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Karen M. Turner (SMC), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Kenneth Boberick (DENT), Cheri Carter (SSW), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSBM)

1. Call to Order

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from March 24 were approved as amended.

3. President's Report

- a. GenEd. Based on a conversation with Istvan Varkonyi, President Jones provided additional context around the work of the GenEd task force regarding issues including evaluation of GenEd courses, a freeze on new GenEd courses, including those that are posted but have not previously been taught.
- b. Senate Website. The FSSC is exploring the possibility of using some of the senate resources to hire a student to assist with an update and overhaul of the Faculty Senate website and content. The goal would be to complete this work by the beginning of the summer.
- c. Tenure and Promotion Process. There was discussion about whether there was value in asking President Theobald to convene a task force on promotion and tenure procedures at the University or speak with the FSSC about this topic. President Jones will see if it is possible to invite President Theobald to an upcoming meeting.

4. Vice President's Report

- a. Elections. Election returns are in. President Jones, Vice President Howe, and Secretary Davey will serve for second terms in office.
- b. Committee Appointments. Jose Pereiro-Otero and Jacqueline Volkman Wise were unanimously approved for appointment to the Library Committee. Srimati Mukherjee was unanimously approved for appointment to the Faculty of Color Committee.
- c. OVPR. President Jones and Vice President Howe will be meeting with Michele Masucci about the charge of the RPPC.
- d. Faculty Herald. There was discussion and clarification of role of the Faculty Herald as the voice of the faculty senate and the implications of this for how appointments are

made to the Faculty Herald Advisory Board. Phil Yannella will be invited to join an upcoming FSSC meeting.

5. Old Business

By-Law Reviews. It would be useful to have an update from Susan Smith on the status of by-law approvals, given her suggestion at the December Council of Deans retreat that these should take approximately one to two months to review.

Faculty Demographics. We have still not received the cross-tabulated information on faculty demographics that President Theobald promised during his January 15 visit with the FSSC.

6. New Business

- a. Faculty Senate Meeting. There was discussion around agenda planning for the final Faculty Senate meeting of the year. An invitation has been extended to Provost Dai. Suggested items for discussion include UTPAC, Dean's Reviews, and the FAR search. Updates will be requested on progress related to the Childcare and Tuition committees. An update on the status of Adjunct organization efforts would be useful; particularly as they relate to providing updated information and maintaining open channels of communication. Susan Smith and Art Hochner were suggested as potential guests. Retirees will be honored.
- b. Faculty Senate Steering Committee. It was suggested that the Dean Lucia be invited to speak with the FSSC. Jim Creedon was also suggested as a potential guest to the FSSC to discuss campus construction. Additional suggestions for guests included James Dicker, Kevin Clark, Fran Dunphy, and a representative from Student Government. An update on the status of the TLC was also suggested.
- c. NTT Appointment Procedures. There was a question about whether procedures outlined in Article 15 of the TAUP Contract 2012-14 were being widely followed. It may be useful to continue discussion on these discussions with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Delaney.
- d. Administrative Hires. There is a perception that the growth in administrative hires continues.
- e. Study Abroad. The implications of RCM for study abroad programs should be considered. A broader conversation about the transition to RCM may also be warranted.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 14, 1 p.m.

Adam Davey  
Secretary