

**Faculty Senate Meeting
May 1, 2012
Minutes**

Attendance:

Representative Senators and Officers: 56
Ex officio: 2
Faculty, Administrators and Guests: 39
Total Attendance: 97

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:54 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 9, 2011 University Faculty Senate Meeting and the February 8, 2012 Special University Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.

3. Presentation

On behalf of the Senate and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, President LaFollette presented President Hart with a citation reading as follows:

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee of Temple University wishes to acknowledge, with gratitude, the leadership demonstrated by Ann Weaver Hart, President of Temple University 2006-2012. We deeply appreciate her steadfast dedication in leading Temple University to excellence as an institution, and her role in creating and supporting significant faculty-centered processes and accomplishments, especially the Academic Compass. As the first woman President of Temple University, President Hart embodies our historically critical institutional value of diversity. We wish her continued success.

President Hart graciously accepted, expressing her thanks for the constructive relationship that has prevailed between the Senate and administration during her tenure. She stated that it has been an honor to be part of this faculty and this institution.

4. President's Report

President LaFollette gave a report reflecting on his two terms as Faculty Senate President. During that time a lot has been accomplished. Much of the work has been done by faculty committees, which usually operate so smoothly that we give little attention to their work. With over thirty committees, the collective accomplishment has been tremendous. LaFollette thanked the many members of those committees for their work.

One of the hardest-working committees is the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. During 2010-2011, the FSSC invested a great deal of time and energy revising the Senate constitution and by-laws – the first comprehensive revision undertaken in many years. The FSSC also worked with the President to commence a study of the university's climate for LGBT2Q students, faculty and staff. A report of that study is due to be released shortly. The FSSC worked on streamlining and improving the tenure and promotion review process. It developed a statement of principles for the development of collegial assembly by-laws, which was adopted by the full Senate this year. Both last year and this year, the FSSC worked with the administration and the Budget Review Committee on budget issues related to reductions in appropriations from the Commonwealth.

In 2011-2012, the FSSC spent a great deal of time working with the Provost and President on issues related to the Provost's White Paper on reorganization, the subsequent proposals for reorganization in the arts, communications, and education, as well as on the proposed faculty workload guidelines. The FSSC also dealt with issues involving on-line administration of SFFs, GenEd review, and the General Education Executive Committee's (GEEC) response to the workload guidelines, which the FSSC endorsed. These are some of the more salient matters that have occupied the attention of the FSSC and Senate during this period.

President LaFollette asked the current members of the FSSC to come forward for recognition. He offered thanks to them, as well as to his predecessor Presidents of the Senate (especially Professors Karen Turner (SCT), Robert Aiken (CST), and Jane Evans (Tyler)) for the model they have set for commitment to university service.

At the close of his comments, President LaFollette officially handed the gavel to President-elect Joan Shapiro, who will assume office July 1.

5. Vice President's Report

Vice President Shapiro began her report by thanking the chairs and members of the 30+ university faculty committees, whose work is critical to shared governance at Temple. She also reminded faculty to be constantly mindful of the voices of our students, who are the center of our institution.

There is still time for committee final reports to be filed. For inclusion in the Faculty Herald, they need to be in by Friday, May 4. Shapiro asked faculty members over the summer to give thought to colleagues who might be good candidates for service on particular university committees. Keeping committees fully staffed is an ongoing challenge. Right now, there are particularly acute vacancies on the Personnel Committee and the Faculty Herald Editorial Board. In considering potential candidates, it is always helpful to give particular attention to recruiting minority and women faculty members. Information regarding the committees and what they do can be found on the Faculty Senate website. Vice President Shapiro offered her thanks to Faculty Senate Coordinator Cheryl Mack, who devotes substantial energy to keeping the committees running smoothly.

6. Student Government Officers.

President LaFollette introduced the incoming officers of the Student Government Association. They are: President David Lopez, Vice President of Services Julian Hamer, and Vice President of External Affairs Ofo Ezeugwu.

7. TAUP Contract

TAUP president Art Hochner (FSBM) observed that, as has been recently announced, the University and TAUP have reached an agreement to extend the current contract for two additional years. Information has been sent to all TAUP members. There will be informational meetings this week at Main Campus, the Health Science Center and Ambler.

8. General Education

Istvan Varkonyi, Director of GenEd, reported on GEEC's activities in relation to the process for recertification of the GenEd program. There have been several meetings with the FSSC liaison committee. GEEC has developed a pilot program for recertification and expects 19 portfolios to be submitted by the end of the month. GEEC will use these pilot portfolios to iron out any kinks in the process over the summer, with full launch in the fall. During the Fall 2012 term, an additional 25-30 portfolios are expected. GEEC is also working on a student survey, which will go out to the first graduating student cohort to experience the full GenEd curriculum. GEEC has also discussed issues relating to budgeting for GenEd programs, the impact of restructuring, and other issues. The concern is

that if GenEd is not “on the table” for these matters it will “fall through the cracks.” Of particular concern to GEEC is the contemplated transfer to full decanal authority over enrollment capacities in GenEd courses. Another concern is a steady shift in GenEd staffing from tenure-track to NTT and adjunct faculty, as well as a shift toward making all GenEd classes larger, rather than having a mix of small, medium and large-class offerings as had been originally envisioned. GEEC has drafted letters to the Provost and to the Senate setting out some of the issues that GenEd faces.

9. Provost’s Report

Provost Englert thanked all for their contributions to a great year. He briefly reported on several matters. Englert reminded the Senate that SFFs will go on-line beginning this summer. With regard to restructuring, the Provost has met with many individuals and groups in affected units, and there have been good and thoughtful discussions over the most important issues. The comment period on the proposals closed April 30, and the Provost has received over 60 online comments as well as over 50 comments from other venues. He plans to digest these comments and put together a set of final proposals. There have also been over 20 online responses to the proposed Workload guidelines, as well as comments coming in from other sources.

Englert saluted the recent faculty recipients of the Great Teacher, Lindback, Research and Creative Achievement, and GenEd teaching awards. The recipients are all outstanding in their own right. They also stand as representatives of faculty excellence throughout the university. Englert noted that the stipend for the Creative Achievement award has been increased to bring the amount closer to the other awards.

Englert offered his thanks to the Senate officers, the FSSC, other Senate committees, and GEEC for their contributions to the university. He also offered his thanks to our excellent student leaders who are always challenging, yet also fair and mature, with a deep commitment to Temple’s future.

By way of recent notable university events, the Provost mentioned Temple’s participation in the Disney Jazz Club at New York’s Lincoln Center, the Theater production of *Top Girls*, the upcoming awards program at the Library for student research, and the university Film Festival. Finally, Englert encouraged faculty to participate in Commencement.

In the question and answer session that followed these were among the items raised:

- The Provost’s report on the White Paper was issued shortly after Spring Break, and the time period for comments on that report recently closed. What is the timeline for releasing final detailed proposals regarding restructuring? The Provost responded that he hopes to have them ready for approval by the Board of Trustees in June. Faculty senators responded that this timeline makes no allowance for any faculty response to the details of the proposals once they have been formulated. This is of great concern to affected units, because some of the issues most important to faculty members, such as policies and procedures for tenure, departmental structure, lines of authority, school autonomy and governance, and budgeting have yet to be addressed.
- As noted at the previous Representative Senate meeting, Temple Times has cut back significantly on its reporting regarding faculty activities, and the Temple Bookstores do nothing to highlight faculty publications. These practices project the image that faculty activities are unimportant, and that is not an image we want to project. Englert said he would carry the concern to the responsible parties.
- A senator commented on two major issues over the past several years regarding the role of faculty. The first is the erosion of faculty governance, as exemplified by the administration proceeding with a restructuring plan that is largely against the will of the faculty. The second is the practice of

initiating top-down solutions to the budget crisis. Faculty members become dispirited in an environment where their voices are consistently either ignored or dismissed. In our society, there are powerful forces hostile to higher education, and we have to be careful not to play into their hands, which we do if we treat faculty members as though they are just “teaching widgets.”

- The recent decision to cut off access to teaching assistants in GenEd courses is of great concern. It will have a potentially devastating effect, because instructors will have no choice but to cut back on student writing assignments. The effect is that even some of our best students will reach their upper-level work without adequate research and writing skills.
- Although there has been a lot of talk in the past about encouraging innovation, the organizational changes being contemplated will cut against it. Innovation thrives best in a horizontal organizational environment, but we are getting very vertical and top-heavy. There is a big risk of “arteriosclerosis of the academic body.” An even deeper issue is an evident lack of respect or trust for the work of individual faculty members.
- The workload document has missed a valuable opportunity to redefine the role of scholarship and research in the university. Excluding NTT faculty members from opportunities to engage in scholarly research is potentially very destructive because of the way it divorces and compartmentalizes research from teaching. Other institutions do not take this compartmentalized view, and we will lose valuable faculty members if we persist in drawing such rigid lines. In the same vein, we need to rethink what goes into tenure, and who should be eligible for it.

Englert responded to some of the foregoing statements by noting his own concerns about the efforts of federal and state governments to “ratchet out” of higher education funding, the negative portrayal of higher education in the media, and the competition higher education in the United States is experiencing from abroad, as foreign nations step up their investments in higher education. Yet at the same time “we have a great story to tell about what we are doing.” We need to be more aggressive in making the case for higher education in the US, and we need to concentrate on our points of consensus while at the same time maintaining and respecting our points of disagreement.

10. Old Business

President LaFollette noted that, as a result of voluntary retirement incentives, this year the University will lose an unusually large number of retiring faculty members. We should all take opportunities to congratulate our retiring colleagues on their achievements and offer them our best wishes.

Art Hochner (FSBM) encouraged all faculty members to contact members of the state legislature and the governor supporting appropriations for higher education. Our jobs, our students, and the future of the university are all at stake. Hochner also registered his concern that, though the academic year is coming to an end, we have received no report on the progress of the presidential search.

11. New Business

None.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Rahdert
Secretary