

Minutes
Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
3B Conwell Hall

Attendance:

Present: Tricia Jones (Pres., SMC), Adam Davey (Vice Pres., CPH), Michael Sachs (Secy., CPH), Mark Rahdert (Past-Pres., Law), Raghbir Athwal (LKSM), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSBM), Marsha Crawford (SSW), Kurosh Darvish (Engr), Eli Goldblatt (CLA), Michael W. Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Stephanie Knopp (ART), James Korsh (CST), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald, CST), Heidi Ojha (CPH) [teleconference], Cornelius Pratt (SMC), Mark Rahdert (Law), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Ken Thurman (Educ), Jie Yang (DENT), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Fred Duer (TFMA), Mary E. Myers (SED)

1. Call to Order

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from November 3, 2015 were approved. Moved and seconded (9 yes).

3. President's Report

- a. Information sent to TAUP and Temple Administration with adjunct faculty issue questions. Responses came back and were then distributed widely. General feedback is "Thanks for doing this". Possibility of rebuttal round was rebutted and will not take place.
- b. Provost Office contact has indicated she will provide data we are interested in on faculty by gender, race, ethnicity, rank, and school.
- c. Childcare report has been finished by that Committee and has been sent out for review.
- d. This is last FSSC meeting until December 1st – it will be a lunch meeting.

4. Vice-President's Report

Rick Ridall was appointed to the Student Awards Selection Committee

Several (re-)appointments were made to Committees of the Board of Trustees:

- Forrest Huffman was reappointed to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- Michael W. Jackson was reappointed to the Athletics Committee.
- Michael Sachs was appointed to the Athletics Committee to replace Jeremy Jordan.
- Rafael Porrata-Doria was reappointed to the Budget and Finance Committee
- Michael W. Jackson was reappointed to the Facilities Committee

Currently, only 3 senate committees still have vacancies (below). Please circulate requests for nominees to your collegial assemblies.

Committee on Administrative and Trustee Appointments (3)
Committee on the Status of Women (3)
Lectures and Forums Committee (4)

No lists yet available of faculty appointed to UTPAC.

5. Guest: Istvan Varkonyi, Director of GenEd Executive Committee and Dana Dawson, Associate Director of GenEd

Update on GenEd. Provost came to GenEd Committee meeting in March. The Provost indicated he was very unhappy with the quality of instruction in GenEd. Some issues – need to get a handle on who is teaching GenEd classes. Director has no control over this. Would be helpful to have more formative system if faculty members are not doing well. Increases in adjuncts and TAs teaching in GenEd in past years. Some of these individuals are doing a great job - others may not be doing so. Provost asked to come up with criteria for what is quality instruction in GenEd. Committee has developed such criteria. Second, trim the inventory of courses available. Subcommittee working on process. Certainly an issue within RCM. How best to approach this? GenEd seen as ‘second class citizen,’ behind majors classes. Perhaps task force to see how GenEd could be better funded and Director can hire faculty from colleges – perhaps a topic for future discussion.

Many waivers available that amount to chiseling away at GenEd, such as AP exams, Study Abroad. Full 34-35 credit hours in most colleges; in some cases students can get down to 15-16 hours. Provost suggested going back and looking at structure of program and whether really meets goals of program and needs of students.

Past concerns about inflexibility of structure – outside review committee several years ago recommended providing more choice to students.

Our curriculum is really mid 1990s/early 2000’s model. It is what we could do in mid-2000’s

Looking at GenEd programs in other universities. Students feel they are just jumping hoops – perhaps other programs will offer better options. Cal State Northridge, Utah State, and the College of William & Mary as examples of other models being reviewed. Transparency, intentionality, and coherence and consistency into program. Building gateways for themes rather than just checking off boxes. Themes like entrepreneurship, ethics, sustainability, social justice, etc. Perhaps 4-5 areas – like technology and media, arts and aesthetics, human behavior. Map across ways in which students can build a

program across themes with intentionality. An interdisciplinary approach is envisioned. Perhaps a certificate in an area would be available. Process of review is being done by Committee but not near final recommendation.

Discussion/questions ensued.

Grades in GenEd courses actually average lower than University in general. SFFs reviewed as well. Provost appears to be responding to anecdotal evidence rather than data driven information per se. Anecdotally, a few faculty are having their TAs teaching – example of faculty with two TAs ‘leaving’ and having TAs teach the class.

Orientations for TAs teaching in GenEd needed for what to expect – orientations, teaching circles, other options.

Question whether really still need GenEd. Director feels in 10 years we will get a competency based program in general education (such as life experiences).

Question about whether core competencies are being addressed in GenEd courses now? Alas, we don’t have data to answer this at present.

Initiatives - assessment program in place to see if we are meeting competencies. Conduct focus groups in Spring with students and faculty groups.

Suggestion that real issue of challenges for GenEd is RCM. Pressures to increase numbers of students in classes.

Question if we are we trying to teach skills or content. Can’t teach writing skills to 150 students in a class. Response that General Education is designed to bring students up to certain academic/intellectual levels/acclurate students into academic life. Abilities to function as citizens of the 21st century. Create a culture around a student developing and maturing intellectually and academically – discern what is fallacy in what they are reading and what is ‘true.’

Students need to be allowed to take ownership of their learning. Restructuring will help but need to provide for student ownership.

6. Guest: Zeb Kendrick, Vice-Provost for Graduate Education, on New Ph.D. Funding Policy

Discussion on Ph.D. funding new policy. Provided some data on graduation/employability and registration numbers.

Full funding for doctoral students and decision on a four year package. Grad Board recommended this.

Question if a student can fund her/himself then department doesn't have to. Only students you begin funding – newly matriculated Ph.D. students in fall 2016 whom you fund. Students willing to pay own way don't have to offer anything. For international students with own funding for two years, departments should fund additional time.

If a student is self-funding obligation does not exist.

Graduate Board Committee – working on white paper to address improving quality of graduate student experience/outcomes. Some preliminary recommendations for discussion at future Graduate Board meetings.

Concern expressed that faculty have not been kept in the loop about these discussions/decisions.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

1) Ken Thurman - motion to establish Ad-Hoc Committee on Disabilities Concerns

Move to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities Concerns which will be charged with 1. Making recommendations about issues affecting faculty with disabilities and their inclusion in the university community; 2. Making recommendations that enhance faculty's ability to meaningfully include students with disabilities in their classes as well as the university community as a whole; and 3. Providing liaison between the faculty and the Office of Disabilities Resources and Services (DRS).

Membership shall consist of 6 faculty members appointed by the FSSC to serve 3 year terms with initial appointments to be staggered with 2 one-year terms, 2 two-year terms, and 2 three-year terms. Initial appointees may be reappointed. No appointee may serve more than 2 consecutive three-year terms. Additionally, one graduate student and one undergraduate student shall serve on the committee as non-voting members. Students will be selected from a list of nominees from TUGSA and Student Government for graduate and undergraduate student, respectively.

It is highly recommended that the Director of DRS or her/his designee serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.

Discussion ensued. DRS functions to focus on students. Approved - (17 yes, 1 abstain)

2) Eli Goldblatt motion to establish the Council of Diverse Constituencies

Moved to establish the Council of Diverse Constituencies, which will be charged with:

1) Facilitating discussion among faculty committees charged with the special concerns for diverse constituencies in the university community; 2) Making recommendations that enhance faculty's ability to meaningfully include students who identify with groups who

have not been adequately represented on campus; and 3) Providing liaison between the faculty and university offices that provide support for diverse constituencies. The committee would include, but not be limited to, the Committee on Faculty of Color, Committee on the Status of Women, the LGBTQ Committee, the International Programs Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities Concerns.

Membership shall consist of a faculty member who represents the above Faculty Senate committees, to serve initial appointments to be staggered with approximately equal numbers of one-year terms, two-year terms, and three-year terms. Initial appointees may be reappointed. No appointee may serve more than 2 consecutive three-year terms. The new Vice-President for Diversity Initiatives will be invited to be an ex-officio member. Additionally, one graduate student and one undergraduate student shall serve on the committee as non-voting members. Students will be selected from a list of nominees from TUGSA and Student Government for graduate and undergraduate student, respectively.

Discussion ensued. Approved - (16 yes, 1 abstain)

- 3) Trish Jones – presented list of recommended amendments to Angel motion for upcoming Faculty Senate meeting sent to FSSC members earlier on Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Discussion ensued. Motion to have recommendations presented as an omnibus motion from FSSC. Moved and seconded. (16 yes, 1 abstain) Information will be provided to FS ahead of meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sachs
Secretary