

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

Attendance:

Present: Tricia Jones (Pres.), Adam Davey (Vice Pres.), Michael Sachs (Secy.), Raghbir Athwal [WebEx] (LKSM), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSBM), Li Bai (for Kurosh Darvish, ENGR), Fred Duer (TFMA), Michael W. Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Stephanie Knopp (ART), Jim Korsh (CST), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald), Mary Myers (SED), Heidi Ojha (CPH), Cornelius Pratt (SMC), Mark Rahdert (Law), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Ken Thurman (Educ.), Jie Yang (DENT), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Marsha Crawford (SSW), Eli Goldblatt (CLA)

1. Call to Order

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 13, 2015 were approved as amended. Moved and seconded (9 yes).

3. Service Brunch update

Cheryl Mack gave an update on preparations for the Service Brunch on November 17th. Preparations are in full swing and all will be ready for a superlative event.

4. Guest: Dr. Jodi Levine Laufgraben (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Assessment, and Institutional Research)

Updates on a number of items in her portfolio

Accreditation – Middle States Accreditation report submitted June 1, got response August 1, and awaiting decision on accreditation around Thanksgiving. We do particularly well in assessing student learning.

Middle States may eliminate 5 year written interim report. Unclear exactly how process may change. Self-study and visit sometime in next 5-8-10 years.

Middle States accredits the University as a whole (allows us/students to get federal funding). But programs/schools/colleges may still need program/school/college specific accreditation).

Program Review – last year 8 reviews. Some recurring themes – need for more interdisciplinary opportunities (e.g., research and programs for students) – development of these may be challenging within RCM – depends on ‘personality’ of school/college, looking at transfer credits, reducing degrees to 120-124 credits (and room in program to take courses in other departments), space for electives.

- Students who study abroad are more likely to graduate in four years as opposed to students who don't study abroad. Helpful for Fly in Four.
- Use of road maps within DARS so students can see what eight semesters will look like for their four years at Temple.
- Increase dedicated space for students is needed.
- Renew interest in academically oriented student clubs and organizations.

Academic calendars – question about length of time between last class and final exams. Many schools/colleges use study days for professional development. Students indicate they do use study days to prepare for finals. Study days also available for calendar adjustments in case of weather related issues. Discussion of 'extended' Thanksgiving break – will continue. FSSC members indicated faculty input still not solicited in this process although Provost's office did get some feedback in other ways.

Program review cycle runs until 2020.

Academic programs – APAC and tracking process has worked really well. Very little strife/conflict that has needed to be dealt with, and generally resolved readily with programs and schools. Record for a month – November - 160 new courses posted. In two years 1500 courses posted. Will be seeking some new names for APAC as individuals cycle off.

New At-A-Glance and Factbook will be available around Thanksgiving.

Undergraduate placement testing – group reviewing this working very well. On line math placement testing tool being used. This appears to be working out well.

Fly in Four – lot of national attention. 89% in fall 2014 (90.4% came back for fall 2015); in fall 2015 93% signed up. Signing agreement increases likelihood of student success. 98.5% came back if did all checkpoints for Fly in Four. Those who didn't sign agreement came back at only 85% - not as engaged/are at risk. Met checkpoints GPA – 3.34. Not sign – 2.83. Question about potentially high GPA (grade inflation?).

4485 entering freshmen. 81% should be at 45 credits by end of this fall. Met checkpoints – 95%. If didn't sign – only 65%.

Fly in Four continues to be very positive.

Starting to look at 4+1 options.

Transfer students eligible as well and some able to take advantage of this as an option.

Feedback on assessment process. Provost's office has heard concerns and is working on them.

Fly in 4

- a. 93% sign-up rate for the entering class (class of 2019)
- b. Data continues to show that signing agreement increases likelihood of student success, including progress towards degree:
 - i. Of all the freshmen who signed the agreement in Fall 14, 90.4% were retained to fall 2 (Fall 15). The overall fall to fall retention rate for this freshmen class was 89.9%. For those that signed and met all checkpoints (non-grant) the fall to fall retention rate was 98.5% and for grant recipients that signed and met checkpoints it was 98.6%. If you did not sign, retention rate was 85.9%.
 - ii. GPA
 1. All who signed = 3.06
 2. Met checkpoints (non-grant) = 3.34
 3. Grant and met checkpoints = 3.20
 4. Did not sign = 2.83
 - iii. Credits passed through summer
 1. All who signed = 33.3
 2. Met checkpoints (non-grant) = 37.6
 3. Grant and met checkpoints = 35.1
 4. Did not sign = 31.2
 - iv. Of the 4,033 left in entering class of 4,485 that came back for fall, % on track to have 45 at the end of this fall:
 1. All who signed = 81%
 2. Met checkpoints = 97%
 3. Grant and met checkpoints = 94%
 4. Did no sign = 65%

Faculty Data – follow up to lunch with the Provost to get faculty data. Many different offices where data may be available – depends on exactly which data are desired.

Concerns raised about U.S. News survey and errors in ballot sent by U.S. News.

5. Jeremy Jordan (STHM - Faculty Athletics Representative)

FSSC important group to connect with and share information. Two things to hear thoughts on: first – faculty perspective on proposed football stadium. Need to be able to answer question of “What do faculty think about this?” Vote by Board of Trustees likely in December. Second, Temple doesn’t have a missed class time policy for students – if miss time for sanctioned event there is no policy for how this should be handled. Appears to be handled individually by faculty and no general rules. Perhaps helpful to have general policy on this.

Suggestion that EPPC weigh in on missed class time policy, as well as Collegial Assemblies. Transparency for any policy should be done (well in advance on syllabus). Faculty may have different policies, which can be stressful. Extended discussion on these issues.

Recommendation for mechanism for conversation with faculty before final decision on stadium. Extended discussion on stadium issue. Concern about public perception of issue.

6. President's Report

a. Adjunct Questions Process and Output

Responses are in from TAUP and Sharon Boyle. President Jones is working on this and will then send it out in the next few days.

b. Meeting with Provost – we will get faculty data but now have to hunt down the data.

c. For November 16th Faculty Senate meeting President Jones will send out draft response to Angel's motion for FSSC review.

d. Issues with SFF committee and SFFs reviewed. Potential for Peer reviews discussed as well.

7. Old Business

Brief report from Committee on Placement from LaFollette.

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sachs
Secretary