

Minutes
Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, September 1, 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 (TUSM), Teresa Gill Cirillo (FSBM) Kurosh Darvish (Engr), Fred Duer (TFMA), Eli Goldblatt (CLA), Michael W. Jackson (STHM), Michael Jacobs (Pharm), James Korsh (CST), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald, CST), Cornelius Pratt (SMC), Mark Rahdert (LAW), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Ken Thurman (Educ), Jie Yang (KSoD), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Marsha Crawford (SSW), TBN (CPH), TBN (TYL)

1. Call to Order

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 28, 2015 were approved. Moved Solow, Seconded Athwal (Approved unanimously).

3. New members of the FSSC were introduced.

4. Jim Korsh from CST asked to be appointed to a third term as FSSC Representative. He was chosen by CST and this doesn't violate the Bylaws. Moved by Davey, seconded by Solow. Approved unanimously.

5. President's Report

- a. UTPAC. University Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee. Jones gave a background on UTPAC and developments over the past year. The Provost will appoint his members to UTPAC as he decides, without restrictions to which subcommittees appointees are made (e.g., without needing to adhere to disciplinary lines). Each subcommittee will have at least one administrator as well.
Some questions/discussion ensued. Professional Schools for the moment will continue to go to the Council of Deans rather than UTPAC.
- b. Department Chair clarification – a definitive response from the Provost's office was that Department Chairs can serve on the FSSC. However, there are some differences across schools/colleges as to the role of Department Chairs on various committees. It may be advisable to discuss at some point about potential Constitutional changes with respect to Department Chairs serving as FSSC Officers.
- c. Tentative Senate Events – Faculty Service Brunch (Nov. 11), Diversity Symposium will not be held this fall, tentative Council of Deans retreat in December (to be decided).
October 8 – President's State of the University event (Feinstone Lounge).
- d. Scheduled and suggested guests for FSSC meetings this Fall – 9/15 – Jeremy Jordan (Faculty Athletics Representative), 9/22 - Provost, 10/6 – Li Bai (different incentive

structures for faculty service work), 10/13 – Judge Theodore McKee (Board of Trustees), 11/10 – Istvan Varkonyi (General Education changes). Other ideas: Director of new infusion Institute. Spring remains to be determined.

- e. Future discussion – various ideas/issues were presented.

6. Vice President's Report

- a. Many committee vacancies (at least 43). Complete list has been provided and efforts are being taken to update lists. The challenge of filling these vacancies given the current climate with respect to service was noted.
- b. Elections process. We will let Provost move first to provide members for UTPAC and then we will have a complementary ballot for the rest of the positions. Discussion ensued on various aspects of UTPAC and how it will function, as well as aspects of how the ballot for elected individuals will be developed/function. It was suggested that it would be helpful for the Vice-President to provide a framework for how the election will be structured and be held.

7. New Business

- a. Development of liaison structure for core committees – facilitate functioning of committees (ensure stay active/don't become simply functions of the administration). A question was raised about regular reports from the committees to the FSSC. Personnel committee is not included in this discussion. Perhaps use committee members already on these committees who are also on FSSC. The status of RPPC was discussed as well (questions remain about its status). Michael Jacobs will follow up on the status of RPPC.
The functioning (or lack thereof) of EPPC was raised/discussed as well (efforts to assist it in becoming more effective, as opposed to less effective and letting Peter Jones [Vice-Provost] set the agenda). Questions about student placement (primarily math and writing) were raised as well and discussed, especially as to how these decisions were being made and administered. However, it appears the Administration moved forward with decisions on this issue without appropriate consultation with faculty (which raises serious concerns). Perhaps this issue should be discussed with Peter Jones. It also appears we have not been getting minutes from EPPC (as EPPC is an FSSC committee we should be getting these regularly).
- b. Faculty Handbook Committee – the status of the handbook was discussed. It is the governing document for non-TAUP units. Committee convened two years ago was not allowed by Administration to function. Need to reconvene committee at this time – putting revision together will be important in any case even if meets resistance from administration in future. There is an existing Standing Committee – recommendation made to let existing Standing Committee develop a draft for approval and then transmittal to Administration. Directed Adam Davey to move Standing Committee forward.
- c. Senate Website situation – Paul LaFollette reported. Student worked on website over summer and has a document of ideas on potential changes. Possible connection with Computer Science students to develop product that meets our needs. Look for an easier to manage website. Would be helpful to make it easier to update committees and also

make it easier for faculty to volunteer for committees. Student assistance is good, free, and they will get a great learning experience.

- d. Potential action on side letter – Tuition Benefits report (Heather Porter Chair). Recommendation to endorse this report suggested. Thurman moved to endorse report, Solow seconded motion. Jones reviewed recommendations of the report. Brief discussion ensued. Approved unanimously.
- e. Potential action on side letter – Child Care Benefits report (Casey Breslin Chair) – should be out at some point this fall.
- f. Committee appointments – Chief Information Officer Search Committee (Mike Sitler request) – discussion about whether this should go to CATA. This is an administrative appointment - should go to CATA. Request will be sent to CATA. Also need Diversity Spokesman Search Committee nominations – will be sent to CATA as well.
- g. Boyer College Bylaws – Solow raised these for discussion. Boyer Collegial Assembly was asked to revise the Bylaws (formerly submitted ones were not approved). Inconsistencies exist between old guidelines from the Adamany Administration. Administration is supposed to indicate what changes Collegial Assemblies need to make. This has not taken place with the Boyer College bylaws. Recommendation was made to raise this at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- h. Diversity Symposium – Jones report back to Symposium Committee to review possibilities for next year.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Michael Sachs
Secretary