

Minutes
Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, September 15, 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), Marsha Crawford [teleconference] (SSW), Kurosh Darvish (Engr), Fred Duer (TFMA), Michael W. Jackson (STHM), James Korsh (CST), Paul LaFollette (Fac. Herald, CST), Cornelius Pratt (SMC), Mark Rahdert (LAW), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD), Ken Thurman (Educ), Jie Yang (DENT), Cheryl Mack (Coord.)

Absent: Michael Jacobs (Pharm), Heidi Ojha (CPH), TBN (SED), TBN (TYL)

1. Call to Order

President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 28, 2015 were approved as amended. Moved and seconded (Approved unanimously).

3. President's Report

- a. Additional guests for FSSC – Scott Gratson (LGBT issues on campus) – October 13th. We can consider a Faculty Senate presentation on November 16th. Issues related to LGBT individuals on campus are important to discuss. Perhaps a new committee to address these issues (including disability) may be warranted.
- b. President's presentation on October 8th – is being closely managed/tightly controlled by the President's Office. Consideration of having a separate Faculty Senate meeting was discussed.
- c. Updates on communication on UTPAC (University Tenure & Promotion Advisory Committee) – Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs Kevin Delaney shared helpful information at Faculty Senate meeting as well as TAUP information distributed after the Faculty Senate meeting. Perhaps FSSC can write our own description of understanding of UTPAC process and be sure this aligns with Provost's office understanding – there seems to be some lack of information from the Provost's office on process specifics. Note also different processes for TAUP schools and non-TAUP colleges.
- d. Update on CATA (Committee on Administrative and Trustee Appointments) work – excellent work by CATA in providing names as requested. Clarified with Michael

Sitler in the Provost's office that all administrative and trustee appointments will go through CATA.

- e. Tuition Benefits Committee – e-mail from Heather Porter, committee chair, that she had heard from the Administration indicating that they can't deal with recommendations at all because TAUP is allegedly attempting to increase size with 1300 adjuncts. FSSC and Heather Porter will explore an appropriate response and review this at a future FSSC meeting.

4. Vice President's Report

- a. Recommend starting votes electronically and review/potentially table candidates as needed.
- b. Honors Oversight -The FSSC voted to approve Peshe Kuriloff's appointment to the Honors Oversight Committee. Ruth Ost has been notified.
- c. GEEC - The FSSC voted to approve Andrew Spence's appointment to the General Education Executive Committee. Istvan Varkonyi has been notified.
- d. CATA - Harold Klein, Chair of CATA, was asked to identify appointees to the search for a replacement for Timothy O'Rourke as CIO and for a replacement for Rhonda Brown as Assistant Vice President for Institutional Diversity, Equity, Advocacy, and Learning (IDEAL).
- e. Professors Michael Jackson (STHM) and Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (TFMA) were names of faculty forwarded to Deputy Provost Sitler's office for the IDEAL search.
- f. A call for candidates for the CIO search was circulated to the Faculty Senate listserv last week.
- g. Faculty Herald - The FSSC voted to approve appointment of David Mislin and Alicia Cunningham-Bryant to the Faculty Herald Board. Both appointments approved unanimously.
- h. Sabbatical Committee - The FSSC voted to approve appointment of Heidi Ojha to the University Sabbatical Committee. Vice President Davey will notify Erin Palmer and Albert Wertheimer. Appointment approved unanimously.
- i. EPPC - The FSSC voted to approve Rob Fauber for appointment to an additional term to EPPC. Appointment approved unanimously.
- j. RPPC – The FSSC voted to reappoint Michael Jacobs to RPPC. Appointment approved unanimously.

5. Discussion of Marina Angel's motion

Larger issues to discuss:

- a. What actually was voted upon? Alas, no recording available. From a parliamentary perspective, the motion presented represents a first reading, so that it is available for action at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Motion (Rahdert, seconded) to postpone consideration of Angel's motion until the November 2015 Faculty Senate meeting. Motion approved unanimously. The October Faculty Senate meeting is a special meeting devoted to the President's address.
- b. Angel's motion conflates Cosby situation with Chairman O'Connor's potential culpability with new Sexual Assault policy. Concern that this approach hinders discussion of the new Sexual Assault policy (distributed on August 13th). Primary concern heard on campus is that there is a need for an Independent Office to address these sexual assault issues, which is not included in the new policy. Discussions with President's Office to discuss aspects of this policy; however, Angel's motion has derailed this process. Discussion ensued on these issues. Decision to address new Sexual Assault Policy specifically – Jones will draft some approaches to do so and bring to the FSSC for discussion.

6. Guests – Jeremy Jordan (Faculty Athletics Representative) and Pat Kraft (Director of Athletics)

Jordan (STHM) discussed his role. Started July 1st, getting to meet people, building relationships, facilitate liaison between academics and athletics. Opportunities for dialogue.

Pat Kraft (Athletics) emphasized need for constant communication/dialogue between faculty and athletics. Kraft was faculty member at two institutions and understands need for communication. Need for faculty support for athletics. Need to consider student-athlete welfare/well-being. Stress academics every day with athletes. Brought Spring highlights for academic success from Athletic Academic Advising. Hired some new people – Craig Angelos, Mary McElroy, elevated staff in some positions. Enhanced academic center – Resnick Center. Men's soccer ranked 23rd in country. Leadership Council in Justin Miller's office (Resnick center). Student athlete welfare being addressed – mental health piece critical. CARE team has been established to handle different situations.

Kraft indicated most significant challenge is student athlete welfare/well being – mental health issues in particular. Two outside counselors brought in to discuss handling life issues. Drug and alcohol issues always a concern. Working with Tuttleman Counseling Center. Concerns at times about promptness with which athletes can be seen by Counseling Center. Working with Ryan Tierney (Kinesiology) and colleagues on concussion issues. Need to have individuals feel comfortable talking with counselors. Kraft has breakfast every two weeks with 10 student-athletes to get a feel for how things are going.

Drug testing of student-athletes has increased (new company brought on board) – education piece an important part.

Women's soccer goalkeeper – potential Rhodes Scholar. Unfortunately she recently broke her femur – her season is over. She needs someone to talk with to deal with concerning this development.

Question/concern raised about number of hours devoted to athletics by student-athletes. Concern not much feedback coming back to faculty about what it really means to be a student-athlete – pressures on them. Student-athletes need to let faculty know of their involvement in athletics.

Jordan focus is on academic integrity and student-athlete welfare. Possible development of a faculty mentor program. Looking forward to possible initiatives. Working on being a link between faculty and Athletics, as well as with students.

Jordan as conduit between faculty and athletics. Recommendation Kraft meet with faculty as well. Perhaps also bring in medical staff to speak to faculty.

Recommendation to have student-athletes let faculty know at beginning of classes that they are student-athletes. It would be helpful for faculty to know this.

Question about graduate externs in athletics. Concern about time pressures put on graduate externs in their work. Sports medicine in particular has issues with time limits. Potential use of graduate offerings during summer when time pressures may be more limited.

Athletics shares facilities with Club sports. Growing interest in club sports. Space always a big issue.

Jordan indicated several coaches said they use academic programs as a recruiting tool for prospective student-athletes – quality of our academics. Recommendation that student-athletes talk with professors about academic path, especially if feel limited in internship opportunities, study abroad opportunities, and so on. Jordan encouraged FSSC to contact him if any questions.

Kraft noted that student-athletes have gotten iPads with textbooks loaded on them. Student-athletes should be using them for work purposes.

Justin Miller (Resnick Center Director) still person to contact on student progress issues.

7. New Business

- a. CATA – discussion on quick turnaround needed and potential names added to lists put forward. Requests come from Michael Sitler to Jones or Davey and then, if appropriate, are sent to CATA, and CATA reports back to Administration and Senate.

- b. Confidentiality – conversations in FSSC are confidential (general reports back to Colleges are appropriate, but not specific attributions to individuals).
- c. Listserv use – listserv was closed last week due to inappropriate postings. Jones clarified how listserv process works.
- d. Question about which University positions should be governed by Human Resources and Affirmative Action – many Athletics positions filled during summer with apparently little oversight.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sachs
Secretary