

Minutes of Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

Date and time:	November 9, 2021 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Location:	Zoom
Present:	Helen Cahalane, Yolanda Covington-Ward, Lorraine Denman, Tom Diacovo, Gosia Fort, Irene Frieze, Vicki Gamble, Suzanna Gribble, Robin Kear, Marty Levine, Patrick Loughlin, Vinayak Sant, Tom Songer, Amy Tuttle
Absent:	Parnaz Boogdagh, Christine Jackson, Victoria Lancaster, Keith Reimink, Isabella Stash, Carly Swartz, John Wallace, Lu-in Wang, Seth Weinberg

Call to order—The meeting was called to order by L. Denman at 11:00 am.

1. Approval of September and October minutes
2. Updates and recommendations from subcommittee on teaching/classroom issues
 - a. Faculty should have more autonomy deciding what works for their courses in the Spring
 - b. Vaccination mandate is new since drafting of the recommendations
 - c. Only 14 students have fully remote DRS accommodations
 - d. T. Songer, concerned about communication.
 - e. T. Songer, creating an student expectation that everything will be recorded.
 - f. P. Loughlin, promotes allowing individual faculty to make decisions for their own courses.
 - g. Significant discussion among the committee regarding recording and impacts on discussion in the classroom, establishing a student expectation, how does this impact what type of institution are we (in person, hybrid, etc.)
 - h. T. Diacovot, what protections are wanted to protect faculty from misuse of recordings? L. Denman is going to reach out to Cynthia Golden to get clarification on what policies exist. Suggestion to make sure this is communicated to students.
 - i. Recommendations will be made concise and clear to submit to the Provost's office.
 - j. L. Denman will edit the recommendation document and send it out for committee comment. Feedback by the end of the week.
3. Updates from Faculty Assembly; Outlier report
 - a. Don't know how shared governance will look in the presence of a faculty union, tabling the issue for now.
 - i. FASC likely one of the committees most impacted by union
 - ii. R. Kear may be able to update later
 - b. Outlier courses at Pitt Johnstown. \$400 courses, offerings are currently a narrow subset of A&S course offerings. SBPC formed the report and presented at FA. In terms of FASC impact, it is something our committee could take up. Questions from faculty center around pre-req, transfer requirements. Larger issues regarding our affiliation with the company.

- i. The point was made many times that Pitt-Johnstown is primarily affected. At this time, no Pitt-Johnstown faculty have reached out to FASC or Faculty Senate.
 - ii. I. Frieze said for Intro to Psych the information is not given to students that this is not a regular Pitt course. Not equivalent at all and should not count as meeting the Intro Psych requirement. Leads to surprise when they cannot get transfer credit for the course. Communication issue at the core.
 - iii. Reminder that they are not Pitt faculty teaching the courses.
 - iv. Issue around the approval process, not vetted in the typical way new courses are presented. Little departmental and faculty input.
 - v. Currently have a five-year contract with Outlier, maybe more of a role for FASC when contract comes up for renewal.
 - vi. L. Denman will reach out to Ed Policy and SPBC committee and see where things stand. Still unclear what specific role FASC would play or what issue we would take up.

- 4. Updates on anti-discrimination policies and working with EIADAC, SGB
 - a. L. Denman attended an EIADAC committee meeting and presented the FASC concerns. Also, disclosed that she is in favor of mandatory reporting provided that certain structures are in place with training, staffing to ensure it is done properly.
 - b. EIADAC would like to attend December FASC meeting with SGB representatives.

- 5. New item: United Way drive
 - a. P. Loughlin, a concern was brought to his attention that donations to the United Way campaign were tracked in some departments at the University. It was expressed to him that there are cultural and/or religious practices teach that charitable giving is not to be done for personal gain or recognition. Tracking who gives and entering their names into a lottery to win prizes goes against those convictions. (As noted, not all Schools track individual donations. But also as noted, some folks in some Schools feel pressured to donate.) A solution is to stop tracking.
 - b. V. Gamble, in Department of Medicine, there is a huge push to get staff and faculty to participate.
 - c. Follow-up with L. Wang to see what about the official policy.

- 6. New item: Resolution from Senate Computing and IT committee on Flex@Pitt technology
 - a. I. Frieze, attended the SCIT committee meeting and talked about trying to write a joint resolution about technology in the classroom. Only way to get technology back would be to get a resolution to faculty assembly, but the feeling about the tech is mixed. Some want it back, some do not.
 - b. L. Denman, reminded committee that earlier in the term there was an issue that if all tech was there the number of seats in a classroom would have to be removed, impacting enrollment.
 - c. General conflicting information between Pitt IT and CTL.

- 7. December meeting: Tuesday, December 7 (11:00-12:30) on Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm