

Minutes of Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

Date and time:	March 17, 2022 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Location:	Zoom
Present:	Helen Cahalane, Lorraine Denman, Tom Diacovo, Irene Frieze, Vicki Gamble, Suzanna Gribble, Christine Jackson, Susan Jones, Robin Kear, Patrick Loughlin, Vinayak Sant, Tom Songer, Amy Tuttle, Lu-in Wang
Absent:	Parnaz Boogdagh, Yolanda Covington-Ward, Gosia Fort, Donovan Harrell Victoria Lancaster, Isabella Stash, Carly Swartz, John Wallace, Seth Weinberg

Call to order—The meeting was called to order by L. Denman at 2:32 pm

1. **Approval of February minutes-** Irene has received revisions to the February minutes, they have been incorporated. Committee approved, pending any comments sent to Lorraine by Monday.
2. **Announcement: Elections in May 2022**
 - a. Looking for new co-chair and secretary for the FASC beginning Fall 2022. Lorraine is stepping down as co-chair but will remain as a member of the committee. Irene is willing to serve again as co-chair, but is hoping someone else will come forward as co-chair or to serve as chair by themselves or with another co-chair. Suzanna is stepping down and will no longer remain on the committee.
 - b. Committee elections are April 27th to May 9th.
 - c. Contact anyone that might be interested, if they have questions about the committee, they are welcome to contact Lorraine to inquire.
3. **Update on the Policy Office and current initiatives**
 - a. Resolution on freedom from external curricular influences
 - i. Upholding academic freedom values from external governmental influences
 - ii. Taking the position that we do not want any influences on our curriculum, passed assembly and going to council next
 - iii. Also talked about internal pressures on curriculum in the senate meeting. There is an issue in the School of Education that was discussed
 - iv. Discussion on wording of what “external entities”
 - v. R. Kear, valuable to reiterate positions when pieces of curriculum are potentially under threat
 - b. Should be seeing new language about changing the mask mandate, possibly next week, likely to change in a manner that would not require a mask in most indoor settings. Waiting to see exact language
 - c. Anti-discrimination policy update, L. Wang communicated to the policy committee that FASC would like to meet, that committee is getting close to a final draft and will share when done.

4. Update on United Way procedures

- a. Good progress. P. Loughlin and Vicki met with D. DeJong who was receptive but have not heard anything back, the meeting was a few weeks ago. It was an information gathering meeting, Kelly Gilliam would be brought into the discussion. D. DeJong seemed to understand the element of coercion that more people are continuing to express. V. Gamble said there has been no further discussion in staff council.

5. Update on new policy being developed on travel and reimbursable expenses

- a. A new committee was being formed to Revision charter for FN28 is still in process. P. Loughlin and C. Bonneau and Anna Wang-Erickson have volunteered to be faculty representatives for the committee.
- b. Main issue is with having to use Anthony Travel exclusively, this seems to be a very widespread issue. It was a COVID-19 guideline, but not clear why this is still in place.
- c. P. Loughlin brought up many concerns, will keep the committee posted

6. Discussion on faculty safety issues

- a. Modifications to the building access are being discussed
- b. Multiple concerns regarding personal property theft, access to laboratories, lecture halls, public wanderings
- c. S. Gribble shared about Clapp Hall as a point of concern with street access
- d. Committee generally agreed that the current set up of swipe in really does nothing for COVID safety
- e. Mixed use buildings are challenging, might be areas where you want to remain open to the public (Nationality Rooms) but also restrict office/classroom spaces.
- f. CUPS is discussing this issue at their next meeting, I. Frieze is a pro tem member of that committee and will represent the FASC
- g. Library is another point of concern as a mixed-use space and public being able to come in, but the pandemic has secured the building a bit more, security walks the space and checks Pitt IDs.
- h. At this point, we'll hear what is discussed at CUPS and go from there

7. Other new business and announcements

- a. April meeting is 28 April @ 2:30pm
- b. Will either meet in May or conduct a vote for co-chair via email, once elections are over.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm