

Minutes of Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

Date and time:	December 8, 2023 at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Location:	Zoom
Present:	Voting members: Helen Cahalane, Laura Dietz, Francis Ferdinand, Malgorzata Fort (Co-Chair), Frank Jenkins, Tom Songer (Co-Chair), Parnaz Boodagh, Anna Park, Olivia Rosati; Non-voting members: Robin Brooks, Hannah Johnson, Jessica Thomas; Guests and liaisons: Robin Kear, Thomas Hitter, Susan Jones
Absent:	Lorraine Denman, Trisha Cousins, Irene Frieze, Seth Weinberg, Nancy Hezekiah, Sandra Guzman, Shahfar Shaari, John Wallace, Lu-in Wang
Quorum:	Yes.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Gosia Fort at 12:05pm

1. **Welcome and introductions** – for the benefit of newly elected members, all participants introduced themselves. After round-robin introductions, Gosia acknowledged Trisha Cousins as a new member stepping to fulfill the unexpired term. Laura Dietz, Frank Jenkins and Francis Ferdinand and the new representatives of student organizations received the warm welcome from the co-chairs earlier via email. Next, Gosia explained that traditionally approval of the minutes from the previous meeting would be next on the agenda, but the minutes were not taken, because we were not able to conduct any business due to the lack of quorum.
2. **Committee Leadership** – A review of the faculty affairs committee history was given, as well as University Senate procedures which involve designation of committee leadership. A request for interest in leadership was solicited. Frank Jenkins volunteered to serve as Chair. Tom Songer asked that a co-chair leadership format be implemented as this is the first year of service for Dr. Jenkins. Tom Songer nominated Gosia Fort as a co-chair with Frank Jenkins for the academic year. A vote was taken and this leadership plan was approved.
3. **Policy updates:**
 - a. The committee discussed the University Vaccine policy and revisions to CS 29. The proposed policy was presented by Thomas Hitter, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Policy Development. Outlined changes highlighted the consolidation of all university vaccine policies into one policy statement. The new policy includes requirements for university students, in general, and for those specific to dormitory residency. The new statement also includes vaccine requirements for location-specific to infectious disease sensitivity. There is no Covid-19 vaccine requirement included in the new statement. This policy was discussed by members of the committee in an open forum with Mr. Hitter. Discussion provided more detail to outline process for exclusion of Covid-19 requirement, process for exemptions to vaccine requirements, and application to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. The current draft of the policy statement was endorsed by committee vote with unanimous support.

4. **Suggested areas of focus for the new year:**
 - a. Discussion that the committee consider the following issues in the new year
 - i. Review and possible revision of the mission statement given the new environment involving co-membership with faculty members both in and out of the union
 - ii. Review of practices by faculty affairs groups in shared governance at other institutions with faculty unions. Temple is one such institution.
 - iii. Robin Kear indicated that the committee should consider having a chancellor's representative from the Medical School appointed to the committee. This recommendation would add administration input to issues affecting faculty who are not covered by the collective bargaining agreement.
5. **Scheduling spring meetings:** - a poll will be distributed to identify a day and time for our monthly meetings in the spring term.
6. **FAC representative to Academic Visitor Policy Charter** – a solicitation was made for volunteers to serve as a faculty representative to the Academic Visitor Policy under development. Francis Ferdinand agreed to serve on this policy committee as a Faculty Affairs Committee representative.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Minutes taken by Gosia Fort and Tom Songer