

## Minutes of Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

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**Date and time:** January 9, 2024, at 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Present:** *Voting members:* Laura Dietz, Malgorzata Fort (Co-Chair), Irene Frieze, Frank Jenkins (Co-Chair), Tom Songer, Parnaz Boodagh; *Non-voting members:* Seth Weinberg, , Jessica Thomas; *Guests and liaisons:* Robin Kear, Shannon Wells

**Absent:** Helen Cahalane, Lorraine Denman, Trisha Cousins, Francis Ferdinand, Anna Park, Olivia Rosati, Nancy Hezekiah, Sandra Guzman, Shahfar Shaari, Robin Brooks, Hannah Johnson, John Wallace, Lu-in Wang

**Quorum:** Yes.

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**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Frank Jenkins at 12:35pm

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Jenkins welcomed the members in his new role of a co-chair, and asked for introductions to explain why each of us chose to get involved with the Faculty Affairs Committee and what we bring to the table.
2. **Meetings, voting and the need for quorum** – Fort stated that it was difficult to find the time that would suit everyone, but the Tuesday at 12:30 was the best option, since the second half of the hour had the highest availability. Participation is important. We need to meet quorum to vote on discussed issues. The quorum for the Standing Committee is 5 votes, 3 of which must be from an elected faculty.
3. **Discussion on topics for 2024** – Jenkins started the discussion of the idea to poll all faculty to solicit issues of concern and interest, that FAC can take on this year. Kear added that there are no restrictions on topics, but what changed with the union negotiations, is the engagement of administration in a direct dialog with FAC. Songer said that we need an alternative structure that will replace the collaboration with administration we had in the past and allow the committee to comment on initiatives coming out of the Provost office.

In lieu of direct email/poll to all faculty for ideas, Kear suggested she could ask Faculty Assembly members to poll their units. Jenkins will prepare email/questions for Kear to distribute to FA. The reality is that we have two separate faculty groups (SOM and those in bargaining unit) and we need two sets of rules. The committee's role is advisory, so we should be able to discuss any topic of interest to the faculty, prepare recommendations and pass it on to alert the negotiating sides to the issue. Jenkins said the committee could function as a buffer between the two groups.

4. **SVC Health Sciences Representative discussion** - Jenkins posed some questions on the idea of having a representative from SVC for the Health Science office appointed to the committee. This person should represent Shekhar as SVC not him as a dean. Ideally, it would

be a person responsible for promotions. Jenkins will reach out to the SVC office to test the ground before Kear approaches the Chancellor, who appoints liaisons to Senate SCs.

5. **Select representative to Educations Policy Committee regarding inclusivity OMET question** – Jenkins introduced the email he received from the Educational Policies Committee asking for cooperation to review and edit inclusivity question on OMET survey. Laura Dietz volunteered to work with EPC on that issue. Ideally, OMET surveys should not be used in faculty evaluation, but if they are, providing option to explain low score would be helpful (Weinberg).
6. **Approval of the Minutes** – Jenkins asked for motion to approve the minutes. With no corrections, no abstentions or Nos, minutes were approved unanimously.
7. **Other Business** - Before the meeting was adjourned the last-minute ideas were tossed:
  - a. raise the problem of classroom space (Frieze) – Kear suggested contacting chairs of CUP and AAAS committees who addressed this issue, Jenkins will consider inviting them to one of our meetings for an update
  - b. faculty sentiment on increasing online classes (Thomas)
  - c. alternative testing for people with DRS (Kear)
  - d. retention faculty policies (Songer)
  - e. new faculty and online/in-person meetings (Songer)

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.**

Minutes taken by Gosia Fort