

Faculty Affairs Meeting, April 11, 2018 (3:00-4:00pm) (CL 156)

In attendance: Yodit Betru (Co-Chair, Social Work), Chris Bonneau (Co-Chair, Political Science), Lorraine Denman (Secretary, French and Italian), Patrick Loughlin (Engineering), Tom Songer (Public Health), Chun Hua Tsai (Graduate Student Representative), Laurie Kirsch (Chancellor's Liaison), Ann Thompson (Chancellor's Liaison)

1. Discussion on mission statement

- a. The mission statement was approved by all in attendance with one modification, the addition of the phrase "equitable practices" in the last sentence (see addendum below).
- b. The FA committee will continue to work on its scope and agenda in the new AY, and will focus on bettering transparency and communication, dissemination and centralization of information, recommending new policies as needed, and reviewing existing policies (the latter a priority for next AY).
- c. Chris will present the mission statement at the May Faculty Assembly. Lorraine will send to Tenure and Academic Freedom for review before the assembly.

2. Discussion on faculty unionization efforts

- a. Many issues under FA's purview could also pertain to a future unionized faculty (e.g., salary, contract length)
- b. Whether a union is established or not, such issues will continue to exist
- c. Unionization efforts stresses the need for better communication, transparency at Pitt
- d. Some information given on faculty union process on the Provost's website

3. Discussion on moving forward (AY 2018-2019)

- a. Collaborate with other committees to pool knowledge, resources
- b. Invite people from various units to talk with FA about existing issues
- c. Begin process of reviewing policies and procedures

ADDENDUM: Faculty Affairs Mission Statement

Recognizing that faculty involved in teaching, research, and/or service activities at the University of Pittsburgh entail a range of positions (full-time, part-time, tenure stream, non-tenure stream), appointments, and duties in a range of settings, the Faculty Affairs Committee serves the university community to provide input, insight, recommendations, and review to the policies and procedures that pertain directly to faculty. Particular attention will be placed upon the impact of university practices with regards to part-time faculty and non-tenure stream faculty, who often are not included in actions

undertaken by other committees. The responsibilities of the committee will include contribution to and review of policies and procedures that affect faculty performance, development, evaluation, promotion, engagement, involvement in governance, and access to university resources, and other similar issues that may arise. The committee is an advocate for the promotion and advancement of equitable practices that support the growth, vibrancy, and quality of all faculty members.