

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – 1:00 PM  
3B Conwell Hall

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://temple.zoom.us/j/97904524422>

**Meeting Minutes:**

**Present:** Shohreh Amini (President, CST), Mike Bognanno (Vice President, CLA), Rick Ridall (Secretary, STHM), Rafael Porrata-Doria (Past-President, Law), Fauzia Ahmad (COE), Cheri Carter (SSW), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Dale Haines (LKSM), Robin Kolodny (CLA), Di Liu (CEHD), Matthew Miller (TFMA), Sharyn O'Mara (TYL), Michael Schirmer (FSBM), Ryan Tierney via zoom (CPH),

**Absent:** Quaiser Abdullah (KMC), Nicholas Bizzaro (KSoD), Stan McDonald (Fac. Herald), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD)

**Excused:** Barry McCarthy (Law), Shinya Watanabe (TUJ)

1. Call to Order: Shohreh Amini: 1:06pm
2. Guest: Provost Gregory Mandel (welcome and greeting):
  - a. Introduction by Provost Mandel – Will share updates and reports prior to questions
  - b. Enrollment – wide variety of new strategies and changes; how we go about budgeting, center with individual colleges; “Temple Promise” – announcement just came out, was over a year in the making; giving as much opportunity to students as we can; Admissions funnel – we are cautiously optimistic with where we are, still work to do, but getting there; Admission and Enrollment and then student success; New strategies – overhauled communications and new CRM – Slate; expanded recruitment travel; adjusted the on campus recruitment programming; looking at ways to improve our yield; Transfer efforts, International efforts, we are starting to see impact.

Question – what have we done differently with recruitment?

Response – Regional HS, College Fairs, International student recruitment; Community College efforts (i.e. CCP, Montgomery County, Bucks County).

Question – Are we introducing more online courses and hybrid courses to help attract students?

Response – 20% increase overall in applications; student population primarily wants in person engagement for undergraduate (surveys show

this); however, letting it grow appropriately; for graduate school, better opportunity to grow online programs; working on different options for international students

Comment – great work by admissions; expecting an increase in enrollment

Question – What about the roll out of the Temple Promise, why just Philadelphia, and not the entire state?

Comment – economics are much different in Philadelphia compared to the rest of the state; average income for Phila families is \$65k, makes more sense, based on the need, to keep it here with the benefits they get; we will offer this to everyone - we anticipate so many more to accept; The Temple Promise will cost very little, in worst case scenario; best case scenario, will actually make money for university; our Temple promise is not state funded, we fund it ourselves

Question – has money come out of honors programs to support Temple Promise?

Response – we have redeployed our finances to help support this, there has been no changes in the honors programs. With Temple Promise, it is better to have someone come here and pay 5k (when there is space), then no one coming and paying \$0. From projections, going to increase our enrollment in all areas.

Admissions Data – strong success at top of admissions funnel; we are over 110k inquiries; 38,000 applications as of yesterday, 3% ahead of where we were last year at this time; deposits are down from where they were last year – in the middle of ongoing change with student behavior; 70% of deposits now happen in April, so that has changed behavior. FASPA (financial aid that doesn't come out until mid-March; delay may be ok for us, but a tremendous amount of uncertainty); experience Temple days have been very popular and making us optimistic

Question – are we parlaying fundraising into the increase in interest and applications (including the Temple Promise)?

Response – moving in the right direction but not where we want it to be; hoping to have a stronger effort with a new president

Question – Fundraising, do we expect Deans from colleges to do active fundraising?

Response – yes, very much. Highest value you can add to your school and fundraising is part of that

Question – what has increased the interest in Temple (interest and applications)?

Response – Slate (CRM) has been a huge help in all areas; recruiting efforts; campus safety has been better, that has a big impact; crime down in Philadelphia and things have been better here

Question – Possible mergers with smaller schools who are financially impacted?

Response – various kinds of inquiries in that space; given our size it would be considered an acquisition; nothing currently exists for an opportunity in this area currently; we don't need to take on more debt; however, if there is a smaller school in a niche area that makes sense, we could be interested

Question – How is Temple Rome doing and preparing for their move?

Response – Found a great spot at the Spanish steps, is larger, and has suitable classroom space; rent is twice as much, but the dorm expansion will provide/make up in finances

Question – International students and potential financial aid for them

Response – International students receiving financial aid. Focused on China, Taiwan, Vietnam, looking to expand from there; international students look closely at rankings, so ideally will be in the top 100 soon

Question – Student enrollment going down, how does this affect faculty

Response – understand the anxiety; working with the board on a 5-year action plan; allows us to do reserve spending to help the colleges adjust; 2017 was largest enrollment at 40k, we are now down 22%; Faculty enrollment is now down 4%; very few non-renewals overall this year; 5-year plan allows us to adjust with enrollment; not doing across the board cuts in schools, allowing the schools to take control of themselves

Question – Tuition cost control?

Response – would love to but comes up against our ability to recruit and pay top faculty, have top master's programs; this all-costs money; hoping for a calm spring with things moving in the right direction

Comment (Mandel) – Central staff, college staff, and faculty; central university has had the most pay reductions of 5%; hard to do this is to try and protect the colleges; assessments are divided up by a formula, it can be a bit unpredictable for the schools and colleges

Question – can we have more transparency about these things, project competition grants, would be helpful to know sooner

Response – agree

Concern/Comment – Sabbatical process and staffing – it takes too long to know; schools don't know how to handle staffing for the following year

Question – where are we with a M/W – T/R schedule

Response – that is up to the individual schools and colleges to look at and figure out (\*Conclusion of visit by Provost Mandel)

3. Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2024: Approved

4. President's Report: Shohreh Amini

- a. President search – in person meetings with candidates, we are getting close; a couple more in person interviews; reminded Mitch Morgan that having faculty in to meet final candidates will be very helpful; hoping the board of trustee's decision to use reserves will save the schools/colleges having to make cuts

5. Vice President's Report: Mike Bognanno

- a. Candidates for senate committees (see attached)
  - i. Motion that if bylaws allow us to move the date of the elections, we pick a date that makes sense for all involved:  
Motion made and unanimously approved to postpone committee elections (we will pick a date, move all deliverable dates accordingly)
- b. Updated committee vacancy list (see attached – review documents for the below)
  - i. CIP (International) – Matt Wray: voted in -approved
  - ii. Assessment Committee – Cory Budischak: voted in -approved
  - iii. All 2<sup>nd</sup> term committee applicants/candidates are approved unanimously

6. Old Business

- a. Nominating committee has slate of officer nominees for FSSC: Shohreh Amini, for President; Mike Bognanno for VP; Robin Kolodny for Secretary

7. New Business

- a. February 26<sup>th</sup> RFS meeting – 165 on zoom, another 40 in person = 205 people, great turn out. Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting – strategies going forward to get more people in person (to be discussed)

b. General discussion and wrap up

8. Adjournment: 2:58pm

***Next Meetings:***

Representative Faculty Senate, Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 6:00 pm via zoom;

FSSC, Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – 1:00 pm 3B Conwell Hall