

DFC Part-Time Faculty Affairs Caucus Report
Covering 2018-2019 semesters
May 8, 2019

Co-chairs: Jessi Johnson and P.T. McNiff

The DFC Part-Time Faculty Affairs Caucus has created a college-wide survey on part-time faculty (PTF) working conditions. The purpose was to gauge how satisfied faculty is with teaching opportunities, paths to promotion, and support from staff and governance.

The survey was drafted by co-chairs P.T. McNiff and Jessi Johnson and re-drafted over the course of the semester. The members of the PTF Affairs Caucus gave input and were part of the re-drafts. Co-chairs contacted the leaders of the senate-level Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) to gather data from university-wide survey and polls regarding the working conditions and experience of PTF. The data was sorted over the course of Fall semester by Caucus co-chairs and used to create more specific questions for their survey. Particular attention was given to the questions of support: how supported do PTF feel? Do they have adequate resources like office space, mentors to contact, classroom technologies? Pre-survey polls done by the senate-level FAC showed that PTF generally feel un-supported; co-chairs wanted their survey to dig deeper into this.

The survey was sent at the end of the semester so that PTF would have more time to reflect on their experience and have more personal data to look back on. We also wanted the experience to be fresh in their minds, versus at the beginning or middle of the semester when PTF may be distracted or heavily influenced by classroom work.

Using Qualtrics, the survey was sent for distribution at 9:30 am on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. While feedback is anonymous, participants have the option to give their personal information to be entered to win one of three gift cards – this is to increase incentive and completion numbers. The survey will close for responses on Monday, June 3, 2019, giving participants about a month to complete. Mid-month reminders will be sent out to PTF.

Information gathered will be sorted by end of summer or early Fall. During Fall semester 2019, the results will be taken to Dornsife governance and used to improve part-time faculty conditions and policies.