

## Minutes of the Dornsife Faculty Council Meeting (Sep 5, 2018)

Date: September 5, 2018

Room: Irani Hall, Rm. 321

Present (17): Brian Bernards; Iva Bozovic; Jessica Cantiello; Marianna Chodorowska-Pilch; David Crombecque; Gerald Davison; Shannon Gibson; Bob Girandola; Devin Griffiths (*vice-president*); Assal Habibi; Yuka Kumagai; P.T. McNiff (*secretary*); Joe Palacios; Jessica Parr; Dan Pecchenino (*president*); Sergio Sanudo-Wilhelmy; An-Min Wu

Absent (2): Sri Narayan; Michael Petitti

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Dan** opens the meeting by welcoming the Council back. The members reintroduce themselves to the group.

### **Reports on and Discussion of Summer Meetings**

As **Dan** notes, “it has been a busy summer.” He leads a summary of Academic Senate and DFC executive board meetings since the last full DFC meeting in May. Members who were present discuss the day when the Senate met with President Nikias and Provost Quick, held a faculty town hall, and had an emergency special session. This resulted in the Senate’s resolution calling for Nikias to resign.

The conversation turns to meetings and events that occurred in August. The executive board thanks the members of the council for engaging with the process to unanimously approve the statement issued to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees in early August, asking both for the naming of an interim president and also the placing of faculty on the presidential search committee. Members of the Academic Senate present for the meeting with Board of Trustees chair Rick Caruso report on his comments, including the process of securing the transition to Interim President Austin, possible changes to the board, and the potential for faculty council involvement in the presidential search.

Members who attended the Academic Senate’s Annual Planning Retreat discuss the two main topics covered there: implementing shared faculty governance first, followed by sexual and gender harassment. The conversation around the former focused on possible tensions within the faculty as well as “moonshot” proposals that should help set the faculty’s goals. The latter issue centered on questions of trust and transparency. The council generally notes that asking questions around these topics as well as pushing for improvements on both issues are key parts of our core task for the year.

**Dan, Devin,** and **P.T.** report on the executive board's meeting with Dean Miller. There is a discussion about the decrease in RTPC development funds, and the need for both replenishing them and clarity on the process. A wider conversation unfolds about the Council needing access to the budget, working to identify where money is being spent, and what values/ethos are supported by that money. The follow-up to the Dornsife diversity plan is discussed as well, with topics including ways the council can work with Associate Dean Freeman and upcoming diversity workshops for hiring committees. Finally, general questions and comments about the status of the provost are shared.

### **Teaching Assessment and Promotion Guidelines**

**Dan** transitions into speaking of a meeting he had with Dean Stott. Stott, along with John Holland, have been working on developing promotion dossier guidelines for RTPC faculty (mostly looking at Teaching faculty now). Dan and former DFC president Trisha Tucker have been included in the conversations, which has allowed recommendations drawn up in recent DFC caucus work to be part of the revamping.

That topic leads into a discussion of the issues surrounding the new teaching assessment initiative launched by the provost's office. Council members from multiple departments express strong concern and negativity from their colleagues about both the content and the presentation of the new guidelines. From the contributions of many members in the discussion, many problems are identified, including: the uniformity of the CET documents, their overly narrow focus on a particular style of teaching, the extra amount of labor created by this, the continued concerns of bias as part of the process, the focus on assessment instead of training, questions of academic freedom, the top-down nature of how this has been rolled out, and the short timeframe in which changes need to be implemented. **Dan** proposes forming a task force to work on the conversation within the college to help departments find the best possible ways to work within the guidelines without succumbing to the aforementioned problems. The executive board plans to meet with the college administration to discuss this; the issue will also be pursued on a federal level within the Academic Senate.

### **DFC Caucuses**

The discussion around the formation of the task force ties in with the formation of this year's caucuses. **Dan** breaks down the changes that have been made. The Research, Policies, and Documentation caucus was removed, with the thinking being that all caucuses should be producing policies and documentation. The general Faculty Affairs caucus has been split into more granular groups: one for Tenured/Tenure Track faculty, one for Teaching and Practice RTPC faculty, and one for Research RTPC faculty. A Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion caucus was reinstated to work with Associate Dean Freeman while the Dornsife diversity plan is further developed and implemented. The Curriculum, Elections, and Part-Time Faculty Affairs caucuses all remain in place. The executive board also plan a pilot

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Communications and Events caucus to try to increase the visibility of the Council. Possible agenda items for each caucus are discussed, with the goal of including them in the upcoming survey calling for volunteers.

### **Future Agenda Items and Tasks**

**Dan** asks for consideration, both within the Council and with our colleagues, about what issues need to be worked on this year. Along similar lines is a call for what topics and issues need to be discussed when Dean Miller visits during the DFC November meeting.

The Council also discusses other potential guests and related agenda items for future meetings. This conversation includes possibly inviting Associate Dean Freeman, Undergraduate Dean Stott, Assistant Vice Provost Clark, members of the Presidential Search Committee, and members of the Board of Trustees to future meetings.

The meeting is adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

P.T. McNiff, Secretary

The Dornsife Faculty Council