

**University Faculty Senate
Minutes of Meeting
December 12, 2018**

The University Faculty Senate met at 8:00 am on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 in room 702 of the Cabot International Center, Medford campus, with remote locations in Boston and Grafton. Present at the meeting were John Castellot (TUSM), Brent Cochran (TUSM), Misha Eliasziw (PHCM), Janet Forrester (TUSM), Roger Galburt (Dental), Fulton Gonzalez (A&S), Eulogio Guzman (SMFA), Rob Jacob (Engineering), Vida Johnson (A&S), Olympia Karacosta (TUSDM), Jette Knudsen (Fletcher), Anne Mahoney (A&S), Will Masters (Friedman), Douglas Matson (Engineering), Nirupa Matthan (HNRCA), Mitch McVey (A&S), Dominique Penninck (Cummings), Pearl Robinson (A&S), Jes Salacuse (Fletcher), Mary Jane Shultz (A&S), Chris Swan (Engineering), Maher Tabba (TUSM), Roger Tobin (A&S), Norbert Wilson (Friedman), and Henry Wortis (TUSM). *Ex officio* members Provost ad interim Deborah Kochevar and Vice Provost Kevin Dunn were also in attendance. President Melissa Mazan presided over the meeting.

Regrets: Jenny Aker (Fletcher), Gillian Beamer (Cummings), Ali Muftu (TUSDM), and Lee Sillin (TUSM),

After attendance was called and the senators were welcomed to the meeting, a motion was called, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting,

1. Committee Reports

Educational Affairs & Policy – Henry Wortis

The committee is looking at the consensual relations policy, which is currently considered to be too soft, particularly with respect to undergraduates. The recommendation will be to amend the policy to state that relations with undergraduates are never permissible, but relations with graduate students are permissible provided that there is no supervisory relationship. This will put Tufts in the center of the spectrum when compared with other institutions. The Senate will make a recommendation on the policy, and then Academic Council will have the final approval.

Educational Affairs is also examining third-party contract negotiations with education content, looking at long-term policies for online courses.

Research & Scholarship – Nirupa Mathan

Associate Director of the Hirsh Health Sciences Library, Debra Berlanstein, is now an ex-officio member of the Research & Scholarship committee. She is a member of the Tufts Libraries Council (TLC), which has requested representation on the committee. At last month's meeting, she presented an overview of TLC's role and work.

The R&S committee will be drafting a response to the recent report from the OVPR Barriers to Research task force report, and will be continuing to talk with administration about implementing recommendations for addressing challenges.

Budget - Anne Mahoney

The Budget committee is set to meet following today's Senate meeting; they are looking at the proposed University budget and constraints. They plan to assess the situation and report at the next Senate meeting.

Nominations – John Castellot

The committee poses the question of whether there should be Senate representation on the search committees for the EVP and CIO positions. The consensus is that the Senate bylaws should be adjusted slightly to include "senior administrative officials such as vice presidents" in the list of search committees for which the Senate would nominate a representative. Jes Salacuse will draft wording to address this clarification, and will circulate it via email. Following discussion, a motion, and second, the Senate unanimously

VOTED: That discussion of such a bylaws amendment be postponed to a subsequent meeting; in the meantime, the nominations committee should recommend names to serve on the committees.

Provost *ad interim* Debbie Kochevar will reach out to the President's office with the Senate's recommendation that representation be added to these search committees.

2. Unfinished Business

Faculty Affairs – Chris Swan

The Faculty Affairs Committee presented a revised proposal regarding the Ombudsperson position, distributed prior to the meeting. After an overview of the changes in the document, the Senate considered the question of filling the position with a Tufts current or recently-retired faculty member, vs. someone from outside the Tufts community who might bring a fresh perspective. Consensus among the members was that prospective candidates should not be limited to Tufts current or former employees. It was noted that selection of the ombudsperson, including position description and search, should be a partnership between the Senate and the administration. The position will include training in conflict management, and will continue to be reevaluated over time to assess whether the structure is meeting the needs of the Tufts community. Following discussion, a motion, and second, the Senate unanimously

VOTED: To move ahead and present the proposal to the administration as revised.

Additionally, the Faculty Affairs committee is beginning an exploration of tenure and tenure revocation at Tufts. Paul Hattis is coming to the next meeting to give input on legal issues. They are also working on grievance policies; there is currently no uniformity among the schools, and the goal is to submit to administration recommendations for university-wide norms.

Executive Committee – Melissa Mazan

The Executive Committee thanks the Provost's office for the breakfast recently held for new senators; it was well-attended. President Mazan will send an email about a proposed event for senators and new faculty.

3. New Business

A resolution on fossil fuel divestment for the sake of climate change has been submitted to the Senate by Dan Richards and Paul Joseph. They cite a vote by AS&E faculty two years ago which showed a large majority in favor of the divestment. Melissa asks senators to explore interest among their respective school faculties. She also requests that any senators with interest in serving on a task force let her know via email.

The issue of videoconferencing problems during Senate meetings has become extremely problematic; discussion with IT is imperative.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.