

**University Faculty Senate  
Minutes of Meeting  
November 14, 2018**

The University Faculty Senate met at 8:00 am on Wednesday, November 14, 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), Douglas Matson (Engineering), Nirupa Matthan (HNRCA), Mitch McVey (A&S), Ali Muftu (TUSDM), Dominique Penninck (Cummings), Pearl Robinson (A&S), Jes Salacuse (Fletcher), Mary Jane Shultz (A&S), Lee Sillin (TUSM), Chris Swan (Engineering), Maher Tabba (TUSM), and Roger Tobin (A&S). *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), Will Masters (Friedman), Norbert Wilson (Friedman), and Henry Wortis (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. Ombuds Office discussion and recommendations – Chris Swan**

Chris Swan reported on behalf of the Faculty Affairs committee regarding recommendations for a University-wide Ombudsperson. After providing an overview of the committee's process, Chris summarized the recommendations for the Senate (see appended presentation slides), and then opened the floor for discussion. He noted that the primary objective was to obtain the Senate's permission to move forward with the creation of an Ombuds position, with further details to be developed over the coming year. The Executive Committee would be the liaison to the Ombuds office, but the ombudsperson would appear in front of the Senate annually to make a report. Following discussion, a motion, and second, the Senate unanimously

VOTED: To support the creation of an ombudsperson position to handle faculty issues across the university, with further details to be reconciled and brought back to the Senate for a vote at a future meeting.

**2. Standing Committee Reports**

**Budget Committee – Anne Mahoney**

The Budget Committee met with Tom McGurty and Jim Hurley regarding the current University budgetary constraints. Tom and Jim gave the committee the budgets for the next several years, and the Senate has received permission to send members to University budgetary meetings to represent the interests of faculty. The Committee would like to invite Tom to a full senate meeting in February or March to present additional information.

**Research and Scholarship – Nirupa Mathan**

The Research and Scholarship Committee is meeting monthly following full senate meetings, and has representative from three campuses in its membership. In addition, Debbie Berlanstein, Associate Director of the Hirsh Health Sciences Library, will now be joining the committee representing the Tufts Libraries Council.

Issues coming up on the committee's agenda include a pending report from the "barriers to research" working group in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Once the report is released, the R&S committee plans to issue a response containing ideas for addressing the challenges the working group has outlined. They also plan to invite Vice Provost for Research Simin Meydani to a meeting to begin a dialog and facilitate solutions for research barriers.

### **Educational Affairs and Policy – Eulogio Guzman**

The EAP committee has two new members, and is being chaired this year by Henry Wortis. They are wrapping up their work on the University College recommendations, and have recently interviewed a candidate for the Dean of the UC. New issues on the table for the committee include reviews of the consensual relations policy and educational contracts procedures. The committee would like to see clearer definitions of the roles of Senate representation in interviews, search committees, and Trustee committees. Provost *ad interim* Debbie Kochevar has agreed to advocate to the Trustees for a culture shift toward embracing faculty contribution in Trustee committee meetings. A suggestion was made to hold an event for Trustees and senators to help promote interaction.

### **Nominations – John Castellot**

The Executive Committee has been incorporated for service on the Nominations Committee this year, since there were not enough volunteers from the Senate membership. In addition, the committee would like to see a more clear-cut procedure for nominating representatives to other university committees. They are nominating three faculty members for service on the CELT director search committee.

### **3. Discussions of Procedure**

The next agenda item was a brief discussion regarding the methods by which faculty may bring forward agenda items to the Senate. The bylaws state that the Executive Committee is the primary filter for routing issues to committees or the full Senate. If an issue is denied, the reason for denial should be part of an accessible report. Due to time constraints, the discussion will be continued at a future meeting. Also for future examination will be the extent of independent action by committees, including the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26.