

**University Faculty Senate  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 13, 2019**

The University Faculty Senate met at 8:00 am on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 in the Kohnstamm Conference Room of the Administration Building, Grafton campus, with remote locations in Medford and Boston. 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), 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), 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. Guests Jennifer de Ridder and Celia Campbell were also in attendance to present to the Senate.

Regrets: Jenny Aker (Fletcher), Gillian Beamer (Cummings), Douglas Matson (Engineering), Maher Tabba (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 January 9, 2019 meeting,

## **1. Committee Reports**

### **Nominations – John Castellot**

Melissa Mazan will represent the Faculty Senate on the search committee for the new Executive Vice President; there have been no other new requests for nominations.

### **Budget – Anne Mahoney**

The Budget committee has met once since the January meeting; they are currently working on questions for Tufts VP of Finance Tom McGurty regarding next year's budget. They will be requesting that the Executive Committee invite him to a meeting of the full Senate. The Committee plans to solicit the Senate for questions to submit for that meeting.

### **Research & Scholarship – Nirupa Matthan**

The Research & Scholarship committee has completed its response to the recommendations of the research barriers working group; they will forward it to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March 13 meeting agenda. Nirupa thanked the committee for its work thus far, and reported that the next tasks will be reviewing research compliance issues with federal export regulations. A report will follow at the next meeting.

### **Faculty Affairs – Chris Swan**

The Faculty Affairs committee continues to discuss the meaning of tenure at Tufts, and are working on a proposal to clarify the rights and responsibilities of tenured faculty, including conditions for tenure revocation. They hope to have both proposals completed before the end of the spring term.

### **Educational Affairs and Policy – Henry Wortis**

The EAP committee has been examining third-party contracts with educational content, specifically looking at questions regarding the rights of faculty and departments. In addition, the committee distributed a report on a policy regarding consensual affairs. The existing Tufts policy is uniform for both undergraduates and graduates, prohibiting such activity in any instance involving a supervisory relationship. The new policy proposes to maintain the existing policy for graduate students, but institute a blanket prohibition of all relationships between employees and undergraduates. Discussion raised questions about various situations in which the policy seems inappropriate or unreasonable, and expressed the need for further clarification of language and boundaries (such as how to define TAs and the difficulty of predicting future supervisory relationships). Following a motion and second, the Senate unanimously

VOTED: To table the consensual relations proposal to allow time for senators to compare the new proposal against the existing policy and reach out with feedback to Henry Wortis.

## 2. Unfinished Business

The first item of unfinished business was a proposed amendment to the bylaws regarding faculty representation on university-wide search committees:

### **Proposed amendment to Article 3(4) of the By-Laws adopted by the Trustees of Tufts College on November 5, 2016, establishing the University Faculty Senate**

Whereas effective university faculty governance requires the participation of the Tufts University Faculty Senate in the appointment of senior University Administrative Officers; and whereas existing Article 3(4) of the By-laws establishing the Tufts University Faculty Senate recognizes and embodies the principle of Faculty Senate participation in the appointment of senior administrative officers but is unclear as to the precise extent of the scope of that principle in its application; and whereas it is therefore necessary to amend the By-Laws to achieve such desired clarity,

**Now** therefore the Faculty Senate of Tufts University, pursuant to Article 8 of its By-Laws, hereby amends said Article 3 (4) as follows: “To recommend faculty for appointment to search committees for the hiring of the University President, Provost, *Executive Vice President, and School Deans;*”

The amended language was distributed to senators on January 16, 2019. Following discussion, a motion, and second, the Senate unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept this amendment to the bylaws of the Faculty Senate.

The proposed amendment will be sent to the Trustees for approval.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the distributed Power Point presentation of the proposed space management system upgrade. President Monaco requested that the Senate have the opportunity to give input on the planning process. Assistant Director of Business Development Jennifer de Ridder and Administrative Associate Provost Celia Campbell were present to give an overview and answer questions. Goals are to make better use of under-utilized spaces, streamline the online reservation interface, as well as addressing issues of access and inequity university-wide. Senators expressed concerns about the fact that there is currently no faculty representation on the Space Planning and Advising Committee (SPACE), and about maintaining priority access to spaces they use. Because the new process is still in development, the SPACE committee is happy to include a faculty (and possibly a student) representative. In addition, meetings of the SPACE committee will be open to the entire Tufts community. Launch of the system is expected university-wide by the end of 2019.

## 3. New Business

Another bylaws amendment was distributed to senators on January 16 regarding changing the timing of Senate officer elections.

### **Proposed amendment to article 5(1) of the UFS bylaws, regarding election of University Faculty Senate officers**

Whereas a guiding principle of the Senate is to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness of the governance of the University, and whereas existing Article 5 provides that officers be elected at the first meeting of the year, thereby delaying action by the new Senate, we hereby propose to amend the bylaws to require the Senate officers to be elected at the last meeting of the year:

## **Article 5 Senate Officers**

1. The officers of the Senate shall consist of the Senate President, the Senate Vice President and the Senate Secretary. They shall be elected annually for terms of one (1) year each by the voting Senate representatives at its last meeting of the academic year. Subject to subsection 2 of Article 5, the Senate representative receiving the highest number of votes for a particular office shall serve in that office.

It was pointed out that this amendment was also intended to include election of at-large members of the Executive Committee. There were also suggestions to select chairs of the standing committees at the same time, and to include newly elected senators in the final meeting of the academic year. Following a motion and second, the Senate unanimously

VOTED:           To table the amendment pending revision and clarification of the language as discussed.

Also presented as new business was a report from the Executive Committee concerning new information on federal export control law, particularly with concern to intellectual property and potential adverse effects on Tufts faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.