

**Special Session of the University Faculty Senate**  
**Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 8:00 – 9:30 am**  
**Location – Online only**

The University Faculty Senate met in a special session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Present at the meeting were Jenny Aker (Fletcher), Remco Chang (Engineering), Brent Cochran (TUSM), Misha Eliasziw (PHCM), Leila Fawaz (Fletcher), Janet Forrester (TUSM), Roger Galburt (Dental), Sonia Hofkosh (A&S), Nicole Holland (Dental), Vida Johnson (A&S), Olympia Karacosta (TUSDM), Jette Knudsen (Fletcher), Anne Mahoney (A&S), Michael Malamy (TUSM), Will Masters (Friedman), Nirupa Matthan (HNRCA), Douglas Matson (Engineering), Dominique Penninck (Cummings), Lynne Pepall (A&S), Ellen Pinderhughes (A&S), Pearl Robinson (A&S), Mary Jane Shultz (A&S), Lee Sillin (TUSM), Chris Swan (Engineering), Norbert Wilson (Friedman), Henry Wortis (TUSM), and Chantal Zakari (SMFA). *Ex officio* members Provost Nadine Aubry and Vice Provost Kevin Dunn were also in attendance. President Melissa Mazan presided over the meeting.

Regrets: Gillian Beamer (Cummings), Maher Tabba (TUSM)

1. Approval of minutes
  - a. April 8 – Motion, second, unanimously approved
  - b. April 15 - Motion, second, unanimously approved
2. Update from Provost/Vice-Provost – Nadine Aubry and Kevin Dunn
  - a. Senate’s COVID-19 resolution was well-received, and subsequently acted on
  - b. Underlying principles in all decisions are the health and safety of the Tufts community and continuing excellence in Tufts’ mission
  - c. Thanks again to faculty for their successful efforts to transition to online classes - 19,000 online sessions have been hosted by faculty, many more each day
  - d. Results of faculty survey to evaluate the quality of the transition to online courses
    - i. Very high response rate, indicating high engagement and interest
    - ii. Responses reveal diverse ways that faculty are being sensitive to students’ well-being and the challenges that they are experiencing
    - iii. Overall indication that high quality education has been delivered in successfully transitioning to online classes
  - e. Accommodations to address impact of COVID on education and research
    - i. Pass/fail deadline and tenure clock have been extended
    - ii. Specific adjustments regarding non-tenured faculty are being left to the deans of each school
  - f. Summer programs are being transitioned online; there will be no residential programs
  - g. Planning has begun for fall
    - i. Decisions have not been made yet
    - ii. There will be an online format at least for international and at-risk students
  - h. New Integrated Planning Committee – chaired by Kevin Dunn and Chris Sedore
    - i. Committee will include deans and other administrators, as well as representatives from facilities for management of virus prevention measures
    - ii. Measures will vary by buildings and situations
  - i. President and his senior team are meeting to look ahead post-quarantine
    - i. Implementing focus groups for various constituencies
  - j. Kevin Dunn shared an unofficial document regarding some proposed additional planning groups
    - i. Any necessary changes in courses requirements or credits will be evaluated and made at school level
    - ii. Timeline: decisions will need to be made within the next several weeks, as preparation for an online fall will require 3 months lead time
  - k. Trustees response
    - i. Trustees are being kept in the loop
    - ii. They approved the tenure clock extension
    - iii. They will be holding their regular meetings in May

1. Discussions include plans for virus testing
3. Reports from standing Committees and other reports
  - a. Educational Affairs and Policy – Henry Wortis
    - i. See proposed resolution below
    - ii. Discussion of representatives having responsibility of reporting back to Senate, even if they are not Senate members
    - iii. Nominees should have a mindset of representing the whole university, not just their schools
    - iv. Concerns about Trustee engagement with Senate reps on the committees; Suggestion to have Trustee representatives visit Senate meeting to help connect
    - v. Friendly amendment to include proposed committee names from Kevin’s structural outline document, as well as any new committees that may be created, in resolution
    - vi. Motion for committee to revise as suggested, then circulate for electronic vote
      1. Second
      2. Passes unanimously
  - b. Nominations Committee – Vida Johnson
    - i. Vida requests any nominee suggestions –
    - ii. Specifically asks for strategic thinkers with a university-wide focus
  - c. Budget – Anne Mahoney
    - i. A couple proposals outstanding, but can be deferred to future meetings
  - d. Research & Scholarship – Brent Cochran
    - i. Committee has been engaged during crisis
    - ii. Many departments are continuing to pay staff, but they can’t get work done
    - iii. Concerns about grants
    - iv. Request that university lobby funding agencies regarding continued funding
    - v. Concerns that Senate has been marginalized in research decisions; committee wants to be part of discussions regarding resumption of activities
    - vi. Are considering putting out survey of faculty regarding impacts of the crisis on research and scholarship; Executive Committee suggested reaching out to OVPR and Institutional Research to help in crafting the survey
      1. Discussion
      2. Motion to close debate
        - a. Second
        - b. Passes unanimously
      3. Motion: That the Committee on Research & Scholarship be authorized to work in conjunction with OVPR and Institutional Research to gather data on the impact of COVID-19, and Tufts’ response on faculty scholarship, broadly defined
        - a. Second
        - b. Passes unanimously
    - vii. Suggestion to invite Vice Provost for Research Caroline Genco to the next meeting
4. Adjourn at 9:40

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### **Motion from the Educational Affairs Committee**

Whereas the Covid-19 pandemic has imposed unusual conditions on the university and necessitates major changes in our operation, and we foresee that the pandemic will require new models to deliver the existing curriculum in a manner that insures a successful, high quality educational experience, both for our students and faculty, and

Whereas the University Faculty Senate represents the faculty of all Schools of the University, which is responsible for providing the educational content of the University;

Therefore the Senate welcomes the invitation to place two University senators on the ad hoc committee to respond to Covid-19, and affirms its commitment to work in close partnership with the senior administration to ensure clarity of expectations as the university proceeds to transition temporarily from traditional teaching to remote teaching as necessary; and

Therefore the Senate pledges to work with the administration to overcome the challenges of providing equipment-based courses, overcoming possible disparities in access to resources faced by our students and faculty.