

Faculty Senate minutes, 12 January 2022

Senators present: Remco Chang (Engineering), Brent Cochran (GSBS), Tom Dannenbaum (Fletcher), Misha Eliasziw (TUSM), Janet Forrester (TUSM), Fulton Gonzalez (A&S), Sonia Hofkosh (A&S), Nicole Holland (TUSDM), Olympia Karacosta (TUSDM), Carl Kirker-Head (Cummings), Jette Steen Knudsen (Fletcher), Cynthia Leveille-Webster (Cummings), Anne Mahoney (A&S), Michael Malamy (TUSM), Kris Manjapra (A&S), Nirupa Matthan (Friedman), Melissa Mazan (Cummings), Mitch McVey (A&S), Elena Naumova (Friedman), Kevin Oye (Engineering), Ellen Pinderhughes (A&S), Erin Seaton (A&S), Agnieszka Trzcinka (TUSM), Mai Vu (Engineering), Parke Wilde (Friedman), Henry Wortis (GSBS), Chantal Zakari (SMFA)

Also in attendance: Kevin Dunn, vice provost for academic affairs;

Senators not attending: Leila Fawaz (Fletcher), Aikaterini Papathanasiou (TUSDM)

Called to order 8:01 by President Jette Steen Knudsen.

Minutes of meeting of 8 December 2021 approved by acclamation.

Plan for the semester: we will invite the school deans to meetings in the spring, push for implementation of the university ombuds office, and write the Senate newsletter to faculty. We have invited Mike Howard (VP Finance) and Kim Ryan (VP HR) to our February meeting to discuss faculty salaries and how the merit pool is managed.

Parke Wilde presented a proposal for environmental principles.

Summary of discussion:

1. Environment as a major priority, alongside DEIJ and responding to the pandemic
2. Opportunity for Tufts to become a national leader
3. Co-ordination with other groups
 - (a) Tufts Climate Action (students, mostly undergraduates)
 - (b) Sustainability Council (run by VP Mike Howard; includes faculty and administrators)
 - (c) Tufts Institute of the Environment (primarily a research group)
 - (d) Other faculty working in this area; opportunity for interdisciplinary, cross-school collaboration
4. Principles
 - (a) Research
 - (b) Education
 - (c) Living laboratory for climate leadership
 - (d) Fearless truth-telling about carbon accounting
 - (e) Divestment from fossil fuels
 - (f) Climate adaptation with justice
5. Senate asked to endorse, or to refer to the administration for consideration and implementation
6. Budget
 - (a) Initial investment will be required, probably not as much as we've had to spend on the pandemic

- (b) Significant grant funding is available
- (c) Some parts of this work may produce revenue

7. Accountability

- (a) Build in a plan to review
- (b) Perhaps assign to someone in TIE
- (c) If administrators see this as a key element of their own legacy, they will be motivated to make it work.
- (d) Central administration will presumably need to push the deans.
- (e) Exploit students' advocacy and make them partners

8. Reputation: make this as visible a part of Tufts' image as civic engagement is

Next was a brief update on the Senate's contribution to the accreditation self-study: Faculty Affairs is writing a report, to be given to the self-study steering committee, and encourages other Senate committees to do the same. Faculty Affairs is particularly concerned with Standard 6 and other committees may find other standards more relevant.

The meeting entered executive session at 9:06; we planned for the conversation at the February meeting.