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Annual Report to the Academic Assembly of Librarians by the Representatives Faculty Senate Committee Members for Academic Year 2020-2021

Committee members: Rebecca Lloyd and Matthew Ducmanas

In academic year 2020-2021, Representative Faculty Senate Committee Members attended 8 regularly scheduled meetings. All the meetings were held via Zoom this year, which allowed for greater attendance and participation than was typical during past in-person meetings. A brief summary of some of the issues discussed in those meetings follows. Recordings of the meetings are available here: <https://facultysenate.temple.edu/meetings/recorded-meetings>.

In addition to the regular scheduled meetings, the Faculty Senate held a special Faculty Senate Presentation: University's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic on August 21, 2020. President Englert, Provost Epps, and Mark Denys presented followed by a faculty senate discussion without the administration present. There were also three special Faculty Senate Town Halls on Temple University's Presidential Search in Fall 2020 led by Temple University Board of Trustee Chairman, Mitch Morgan.

Summary of Regularly Scheduled Faculty Senate Meetings

- In September, the Representative Faculty Senate hosted Stephanie Laggini Fiore, the Assistant Vice Provost for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT). She shared updates on the new protocols, issues, and lessons learned regarding the move to remote learning at Temple. The Assistant Vice Provost reported that CAT has been very active helping faculty and providing appointments and workshops to assist faculty making the transition to online instruction. She spoke on issues related to Zoom recordings and student privacy, as well as the uncertainty among faculty regarding whether to require cameras to be turned on during online classes. She concluded by outlining some of the lessons learned from the past semester, including the need to have clarity of expectations for students and the importance of being a reflective teacher in these times.
- In October, the Representative Faculty Senate did not feature any guest speakers. Rafael Porrata-Doria, Faculty Senate President, reported that the new Faculty Senate website is now live and thanked those who helped in its creation. The President also shared that Anna Peak is the new editor for the Faculty Herald and that the Steering Committee is currently working on ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at Temple, which includes upcoming meetings with the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Valerie Harrison. Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, the Faculty Senate Vice

President, announced the remaining committee openings and thanked those who already volunteered.

- At the November meeting, Kevin Delaney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, gave a presentation largely focused on faculty evaluation and issues of tenure relating to COVID-19. He explained how the new Student Feedback Forms (SFF) will provide more ways to evaluate the instructor's performance and touched on alternatives to the SFFs, options for peer review, and the need for faculty governance to find creative solutions to this issue. The Vice Provost also reported that the one-year tenure hold was extended again as was the pass/fail option for students to apply to one of their courses.
- The December University Faculty Senate meeting featured four guest speakers: President Richard Englert, Mark Denys, Senior Director of Health Services, Provost JoAnne Epps, and Vice President Bill Bergman.
 - *President Richard Englert* shared that he understands the concerns surrounding the return of some on-site campus instruction and indicated that Temple will continue to follow the latest scientific and governmental guidelines. He outlined why he thought the return plan would be successful and reiterated that the city has reviewed and approved the plan.
 - *Mark Denys, Senior Director of Health Services* talked about the status of Temple's testing plan, the contact tracing program, current infection numbers, and what his team is looking at going forward. He said there is no "magic number" of infections used to decide when, or if, to move fully online and that as of the meeting, over 4,000 students had been tested.
 - *Provost JoAnne Epps* spoke about how the course formats were chosen and how they were based on individual needs, what students want, and ways to de-densify. The decision-making process prioritized freshmen and seniors. She indicated that if available guidelines change then pivoting to fully online instruction is a possibility. Currently 74% of courses are online and 26% in-person (undergraduate only: 76%/23%)
 - *Vice President Bill Bergman* shared information on the preparations Temple was taking to ensure a safe partial return to campus. This included the installation of CDC-recommended ventilation systems, along with reduced population in each space, and the installation of \$60k in plexiglass and \$40k in insulation in campus buildings. Additionally, campus police will be patrolling for large parties/gatherings in the area and State liquor control agents will be in the area Fri.-Sun. for extra enforcement
- During the January Representative Faculty Senate meeting, Sarah Powell, Director and CFO of the Office of Emergency Management, visited and discussed COVID-19 testing

and vaccination at Temple. The current focus in terms of testing has been on cluster testing and on-site testing went from 1,000 tests a week to 20,000. Last semester, the vast majority of cases were off campus and no evidence of any cases related to on-site instruction. She shared background information on the general challenges to vaccination efforts and those specific to the COVID-19 vaccine. She outlined the CDC vaccination guidelines, the Philadelphia-specific phased rollout plan, and the differences between them. She also spoke more broadly about disparities in access, vaccine hesitancy, and communication tools to remedy these challenges.

- At the February meeting, Provost JoAnne Epps returned as a guest speaker and briefly talked about the ongoing challenges, thanked the faculty for their continued efforts to meet those challenges, and then took questions from attendees. In answering questions she expressed optimism regarding Temple's financial situation while acknowledging there are future challenges around reduced enrollment and state funding on the horizon. She also answered questions related to the expansion of the tenure track to non-research focused faculty, long-term changes resulting from the pandemic, the faculty handbook, and Temple's DEI initiatives.
- In March, Hai-Lung Dai, Vice President for International Affairs, attended as a guest speaker and discussed Temple's globalization goals. These goals included improving Temple's international reputation, the need to facilitate a globalized education experience for students, increasing scholarly opportunities for faculty, enhancing the University's financial resources, and developing international resources for institutional advancement. He gave some background on Temple's international student recruitment as well as the current trends and demographics relating to this student population. He concluded by discussing the impact of the pandemic on international recruitment.
- During the most recent University Faculty Senate Meeting in April, President Richard Englert returned as a guest speaker and began by thanking the faculty for their work during this difficult year. He mentioned the passing of John M. Daly, the Dean of Temple University's School of Medicine, and the process to install an interim Dean. He gave a brief update on Temple's COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts before discussing the current fiscal outlook and ongoing budgetary challenges. President Englert announced some of the recent recognitions awarded to faculty students before taking questions. He responded to questions relating to mandating vaccines in the fall, the Confucius Institute, the long-term impact of the pandemic on program delivery and administrative operations, and comments made by Marc Lamont Hill. Faculty Senate President Porrata-Doria then presented President Englert with a Certificate of Appreciation and then announced the faculty awards recipients and faculty retirements. Vice President Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon thanked all who had volunteered to serve on faculty senate committees.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Rebecca Lloyd and Matthew Ducmanas