

May 10, 2022

Annual Report to the Academic Assembly of Librarians by the Representative Faculty Senate Committee Members for Academic Year 2021-2022

Committee members: Rebecca Lloyd and Matthew Ducmanas

In academic year 2021-2022, the Faculty Senate held eight meetings. All meetings were held over Zoom this year and also recorded. The recordings and official meeting minutes are available at <https://facultysenate.temple.edu/>. Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon is the Faculty Senate President, and she chaired all of the meetings. There were no significant resolutions passed during the past year. Meetings mainly involved presentations, updates, and discussion with leadership from throughout the university. There were also calls for volunteers for various faculty senate committees, many of which librarians are eligible to serve on.

Summary of 2021-2022 Faculty Senate Meetings:

In September, the Representative Faculty Senate featured several guest speakers:

- Mark Denys of Health Services gave an update on Covid vaccinations and testing. He also shared how student and staff access to campus would be restricted if they were not in compliance by the deadline for Covid vaccinations.
- Dr. Tiffenia Archie, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Diversity, Equity, Advocacy and Leadership (and is now Associate Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer) spoke of the activities, goals, and training opportunities within IDEAL. Their office is looking at diversity in all aspects of Temple's community, including that of suppliers. A major focus needs to be faculty and staff recruitment and retention, since Temple's faculty is not representative of its student body. All Temple students now take mandatory DEI training.
- Adam Brunner and Nicole Westrick of Temple's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute shared about the educational programs they offer for older adults. They are looking for volunteers to teach courses, especially retired faculty.

In October, the Representative Faculty Senate featured two guest speakers:

- Ken Kaiser, Chief Administrative Officer, and other members of his team shared a financial report. He gave an update on revenue losses due to Covid, budget expectations for the next year, and addressed questions about the endowment and the possibility of the university's divestment from fossil fuels, which is being considered. He also reported that RCM is under review this year.
- Stefanie Fiori from CAT gave a presentation on lessons learned from the Covid pandemic on teaching and learning. The shift to online learning meant that teaching became centered at Temple in a new and unprecedented way. Everyone had to figure out how to teach effectively, whatever the modality. Many faculty participated in professional development for teaching for the first time and 80% made use of the CAT.

In November, the Representative Faculty Senate met in the evening so that faculty from TU Japan could participate. Each semester going forward one meeting will be held in the evening to accommodate the time zone difference with Tokyo.

- Mary Conran, Chief Academic Officer at TU Rome gave an update on how Covid had impacted the Rome campus, which was able to return to in-person learning in Spring 2021.
- Dean Matthew Wilson, TU Japan gave an overview of Temple's Japan campus, which is back to maximum enrollment. He is seeking greater collaboration between all three campuses, with the hope of more TUJ students studying in Philadelphia for more and more faculty flow between locations.
- President Williams-Witherspoon shared that the drop-deadline was extended to the end of the Fall semester since many students were struggling. She also updated the senate on small bylaw changes primarily clarifying guest participation in committees, which were approved

In December, the University Faculty Senate welcomed President Wingard and Interim Provost Mandel and teaching award winner Bryant Simon

- President Wingard gave an update on several key issues, including work on a task force to address gun violence, the strategic planning process, and the Provost search
- Interim Provost Mandel gave updates on enrollment and admissions, Covid, and the strategic planning process and addressed questions from attendees.
- Professor Bryant Simon, recipient of this year's Great Teacher Award, shared 4 things he has learned from teaching.

In January, the Representative Faculty senate had several guest speakers:

- Arthur Johnson, Vice President and Director of Athletics, who started at Temple just 3 months ago gave an update on Athletics and some priorities and plans for the future. He stated that the goal of Temple Athletics is to uphold and align with the academic mission of the university.
- Gina Calzaferri and Joe Ducette, Chairs of the Assessment of Instruction Committee, gave a presentation on the revised Student Feedback Forms (SFF) in 2020-2021, which allow more customization by instructors, departments, and colleges and eliminated questions most prone to biased and problematic responses. Overall view is that the new form is a success but they will be making further improvements. Questions remain about the tie between SFFs and instructional quality or student learning. Issue is how SFFs are used by the university. Cannot be used as sole evaluator of teaching according to the contract.

In February, the Representative Faculty Senate held a town hall discussion on Critical Race Theory led by Professor Molefi Kete Asante, Chair of Africology & African American Studies and Professor Shanda Sibley, Beasley School of Law.

In March, the Representative Faculty Senate heard from several guests. This was an evening meeting to accommodate participation from Temple Japan's faculty

- Shawn Abbott, Vice Provost for Admissions, Financial Aid & Enrollment Management, gave a report on this year's very strong applicant pool and some of the challenges facing Temple's admissions including the decline in college-aged students, affordability issues, and perceptions of crime in Philadelphia. Student deposits for 2022-2023 are behind schedule.
- Kristie Furiosi, Assistant Director Military and Veteran Services, shared that her role is to recruit and support the 1900 military-connected students across Temple's campuses.
- Professor Ronald Carr, Temple University Japan, presented on Temple University Japan's new campus, the popular majors, good opportunities for internships in Tokyo, and the desire to develop more cross-campus projects and collaborations.

In April, the University Faculty Senate welcomed Provost Greg Mandel once again and Jonathan Nyquist, Director of General Education.

- Provost Mandel gave an update on applications and admissions. Over half of admitted students are students of color. Deposits were still down, although the deadline was May 1st, so no final numbers yet. He shared brief updates on Dean and Vice Dean searches and invited everyone to attend commencement in person.
- Prof. Nyquist gave a presentation on the Gen Ed program. He shared the results of a survey of gen ed faculty about teaching online learning. Opinions are varied but greater thought needs to go into which classes continue to be offered online. He also presented on the strengths and weaknesses of the Gen Ed program and recommended that the hardline dividing majors courses and gen ed courses be reconsidered.
- Vice President Lisa Ferretti announced the new editor of the Faculty Herald after a long search. George Miller, an associate professor in the journalism department will be Faculty Herald editor, and he plans to publish 4 issues per year.
- Retiring and soon to be retiring faculty were recognized during the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lloyd and Matt Ducmanas