

University Faculty Meeting Minutes
October 15th, 2021
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Welcome (Provost Painter)

The meeting began at 12:01pm. Provost Painter welcomed the faculty and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

I. Announcements (Provost Painter)

The next University Faculty Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 19th. There may be an additional University Faculty Meeting in December as there is more material to be discussed this year, although an official meeting date is not currently scheduled.

The COVID vaccine mandate deadline was September 30th, and the University has managed this process very well for full-time faculty and staff. Part-time faculty and staff are required to be fully vaccinated by the spring 2022 semester, regardless of the course modality. We currently have a high rate of vaccinations reported among our part-time faculty and staff. Provost Painter thanked the faculty and staff for their assistance and compliance with this mandate.

Provost Painter invited Dean Washington Garcia to give an update on the School of Music, as there are more on-campus events taking place now that the University is in Tier 3. Dean Garcia stated that the School of Music has restarted live concerts, and concert attendance is increasing. All School of Music Concerts and events are still in accordance with the Safer Stetson tier guidelines.

Tuesday, October 19th is Values Day, and the [Values Day schedule](#) is available online. We commit ourselves to cancelling classes for a day for sharing information and introspection. Faculty and staff are also encouraged to attend Values Day.

II. Remarks from the President (President Roellke)

President Roellke thanked the faculty for continuing to move the University forward. On Thursday, October 14th, there was a social gathering at the President's house with the faculty senate members. President Roellke stated that he will be teaching an FSEM about American higher education in the fall 2022 semester.

Regarding philanthropy for fiscal year 2021, our fund goal was \$2.9 million university-wide, and we reached slightly over \$3 million. Our overall goal for 2021 was \$15 million, and we raised \$23 million. For fiscal year 2022 year-to-date, we have raised \$1.3 million whereas last year we were at \$561,000 at this time. Pertaining to overall fundraising, we currently have \$8.4 million in cash, pledges and gifts, and at this time last year we had \$1.7 million. These are pretty astounding results. President Roellke thanked the faculty for their assistance, as this will be of great value to our students and faculty.

There have been strategic discussions at the board level and with the advisory board focused on post-pandemic higher education, especially regarding the first time in college experience. The Education and

Advisory Board (EAB) will be having focus group sessions in November, December and January regarding this topic.

In regards to the upcoming presidential inauguration, President Roellke requested the following: students play a prominent role in the event, his family participate during the ceremony, and blues/jazz music be played during the ceremony. President Roellke stated that he is looking forward to this event.

III. Triple Policy, Including the Program Discontinuance Proposal from the President **(Discussion)**

Provost Painter introduced President Roellke and Dr. Alan Green for opening remarks.

Chris Roellke: President Roellke stated that we are almost to an agreement regarding the Triple Policy. Because an agreement was not determined before commencement in 2021, President Roellke brought forth the Roellke Proposal that would apply a solution that is consistent with shared governance and aligned with peers, as well as approvable and consistent with bylaws. In bringing about the Roellke Proposal, we are trying to bring policy considerations to a fair and amicable close. In preparation for the reading of the Roellke Proposal, the 17-member cabinet indicated by a vote of 15-1-1 that finalizing debate around the Stetson termination policy program opening and discontinuance policy is *highly important* and that the proposal by President Roellke is *aligned with principles of shared governance and consistent with peers*. President Roellke has also consulted with Peter Eckel at the University of Pennsylvania and the Roellke Proposal was affirmed by Dr. Eckel as well. Regarding faculty termination and program opening and discontinuance, President Roellke stated that neither he nor the Board of Trustees will approve a policy on discontinuance that stops abruptly with faculty. Additionally, this is a package of proposals, and considering any in isolation does not make sense. At the previous faculty meeting, there was a request to clarify how President Roellke might envision qualified mediators from the College of Law, if a mediator on program discontinuance was needed. President Roellke stated that his approach is to involve two people appointed by senate, two appointed by the Provost and two appointed by the Dean of the College of Law. President Roellke wished the faculty all the best as the proposal is contemplated, and thanked everyone for their time.

Alan Green: see attached PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion continued on these primary areas:

How the faculty do not have primary responsibility over program closure. If programs have a curricular component, then that is under the faculty purview, and some faculty may be concerned about the Roellke Proposal in this regard.

Concern that the proposal violates the bylaws, and the bylaws are used as our guide for our behavior. Therefore, we would need to amend the bylaws for this Proposal.

Consideration of whether the presentation of our current process in the slides shown by Dr. Green are representative of our actual practice. Dr. Green stated that what was presented in the slideshow is what is reported to SACS. President Roellke stated that he does not have any concern about the SACS accreditation process since the Roellke Proposal is consistent with peers and shared governance. One faculty member stated

that his experience with program discontinuance bears out our lack of current policy to close a program.

Confirmation by one faculty member of his confidence in the current administration, but concern about future administrations. Both sides will have to work together to compromise, and the Roellke Proposal can assist with this issue. The only hesitation is how to we make it so that both sides have a stake in the outcome and both sides are fair.

There was a strong, repeated request to vote immediately on the issue at hand, and a statement that they felt that there was more than adequate notice in advance of today's meeting of the material on which we would be voting. Dr. Green stated that today's meeting was declared as a non-voting meeting, voting is not allowed to take place. There was additional discussion about the challenges of soliciting a vote at the very end of the meeting (it was approaching 1:15 p.m. at this time).

Motion: to table the program discontinuance discussion (McFarland moved, Peppers-Bates seconded)

Provost Painter stated that since the motion was made at 1:18 p.m., past the stated meeting end time of 1:15pm and after roughly 20% of the attendees have already left, we are unable to have a valid vote at this point in the meeting. The motion will need to be picked up in the November meeting.

IV. Student Mental Wellness in the Current Environment (Lynn Schoenberg)

Provost Painter stated that in the current environment, mental wellness is of utmost importance. Many universities and colleges (including Bethune Cookman and The University of Florida) have been putting thousands of dollars towards mental health. The most concerning indicator is around counselor education services, as this demand has greatly increased for our students.

Dean Schoenberg thanked the faculty for prioritizing this topic. With the increase in higher level mental health concerns with students, there are many systems in place to assist. Faculty have an important part of helping the students, and Lynn mentioned three items that faculty can do to support our students:

- 1) Please continue to report concerns for your students through SSC or www.stetson.edu/reportit. If the concern is regarding academics, please use SSC to report the concern. If the concern is regarding mental health or more pressing issues (i.e. housing issues/homelessness), use the Report It system.
- 2) Have collective empathy. Some of our students were 16-18 years old when the pandemic started. Some never went back to in-person learning for the rest of their high school journey and are now attending college away from home.
- 3) Assist students with academic advising. Midterm grades are a huge indicator of how a student is performing. For students that have multiple midterm deficiencies, please reach out to the student as their academic advisor and look into what could help that student.

The meeting concluded at 1:28pm.