

University Faculty Meeting Minutes
March 18th, 2022
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Welcome (Associate Provost, Rosalie Richards)

The meeting began at 12:00pm. Dr. Richards briefly introduced herself, welcomed the faculty, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Announcements (Richards)

- Dr. Richards congratulated all faculty who were awarded summer grants and sabbatical leave. She also encouraged all faculty (and staff) to submit nominations for the Hand Awards for distinguished faculty achievements.
- Dr. Richards asked if there are any announcements that faculty would like to make.
 - Harry Price requested that faculty participate in the upcoming Brown Center Teaching Colloquium that will be held April 8th (a one-day virtual event). Information will be posted on the Brown Center blog and faculty announce.
 - Rachel Core invited all faculty to an International Learning Committee (ILC) pot-luck brunch to learn about what the ILC has been involved with.

Remarks from the President (President Roellke)

- President Roellke welcomed faculty and expressed his excitement to see the campus coming back to life.
- Stetson is reflecting on and responding to the global impacts surrounding the violence that is unfolding in Ukraine. At this time, the impacts on Stetson are not fully understood, but they are starting to emerge. We have students from Russia and faculty who have spent considerable time in Ukraine, Russia, and surrounding countries. Our SPREES faculty are working to support and assist displaced students and faculty from Ukraine. The Stetson community is assisting with the humanitarian needs in the Ukraine. President Roellke encouraged all faculty to watch the webinar that was recently recorded.
- President Roellke expressed thanks to the panel (Gino Santos, Jerry Morales and Monica Mendoza) recently made a presentation on the Cuban revolution. President Roellke said that these webinars (Ukraine conflict and Cuban revolution) reflected the very best of Stetson and our ability to have difficult conversations from divergent perspectives and lived experiences.
- Dean Garcia provided a private concert for prospective donors regarding our ambitions to build a performing arts center.
- President Roellke stated that the challenges around enrollment and labor currently persist. We currently have 68 open staff positions vacant (44 are approved to be filled and are currently posted).
- President Roellke announced some upcoming events. First, we are holding a Students vs. Old-School softball game at Patricia Wilson field on April 21st. Second, the Late-night breakfast is back and is scheduled for April 27th. Finally, in an effort to raise money for

humanitarian relief aid for Ukraine, Master Chef Hari Pulapaka will be preparing a benefit dinner on May 4th.

- President Roellke expressed his excitement that there was a unanimous vote on the faculty senate floor on moving forward with the longstanding impasse regarding program closure. This is a part of the entire package of policies that includes: faculty termination, academic program initiation, and academic program closure. This is a significant, collective victory for everyone at Stetson.
- President Roellke stated that life at Stetson is busy, it is productive, and we are moving a Stetson education forward in powerful ways for our students. He provided thanks for everything that is being done to make this possible.
- Lastly, there is a “first dog” on campus and his name is Joey.

SACSCOC and the QEP (Rick Tysor and Megan O’Neill)

- Rick Tysor briefly introduced himself and explained that Stetson is final stages of the SACSCOC 10-year reaffirmation process. Rick explained the steps in the reaffirmation process that has brought us to where we are currently. We are scheduled for an onsite SACSCOC committee visit on April 4th – 7th. The outcome of the reaffirmation process will be announced at the annual SACSCOC conference in December 2022. Rick then briefly explained what the onsite team will be looking for and reviewing. Rick emphasized the importance of regularly reviewing the student learning outcomes that are tied to the strategic plan. The onsite team will have an itinerary; however, they may request to speak to faculty and/or staff (even while walking across campus). Please be ready to respond to any questions but know that your response will be placed in their report.
- Megan O’Neill presented “Getting Ready for the On-Site Visit”. Megan presented on the history and importance of the theme *Bridging the G.A.P.* (Gather, Analyze and Present). Megan also thanked all members of the 2023 G.A.P. cohort. Megan finished by explaining that there are currently only 14 proposals; however, there is budget funding for 25 proposals. Megan encouraged all faculty to contact her if they are interested in submitting a proposal or idea.

Overview and Expectations for Discussion and Voting in a Faculty Meeting (Jason Evans)

- Jason presented “Debate Decorum per Robert’s Rules”

Policies and Bylaws - documents sent previously (Alan Green)

1. Proposed change to Senate bylaws – Description of Finance committee
 - Adding these to the Committee’s charges:
 - To regularly evaluate the status of the University’s faculty compensation structure as measured by comparison (1) to median benchmarks, to be established by the Committee, and (2) to internally equity and performance measures.
 - To Recommend to the President the annual formula for faculty compensation distribution, which may include measures of cost-of-living,

- merit, distance from median or mean benchmarks salaries, equity, and promotion in rank.
 - To present regular reports to faculty regarding faculty compensation.
- Vote: Passed (69 to 8) 5 abstain

- 2. Senate and Faculty bylaws pertaining to voting
 - Explicitly allow for online meeting and voting for both Faculty Senate and University Faculty Meetings.
 - Law School has already approved similar changes.
- There was no opposition to voting on both changes in the same vote.
- Vote: Passed (80 to 0)

- 3. New Program Discontinuation Policy – First Reading (vote scheduled for the April meeting)
 - Unanimously passed by the Faculty Senate last month.
 - The policy in its entirety was presented.
 - Cites AAUP standards appropriately (definition of program, “education considerations”)
 - Aligns with Faculty Bylaws and University Bylaws

President Roellke thanked Faculty Senate Chair Alan Green, the Faculty Senate, the current board chair and the previous two board chairs for their engagement and collaborative spirit that has been demonstrated.

Conclusion (1:08)

Dr. Richards thanked everyone and shared that the university faculty will meet again soon.