

University Faculty Meeting

February 9, 2024

Agenda:

1. Inclusive pedagogy and practices (Amy Smith and Meg Young, Brown Center Faculty Fellows for Inclusive Pedagogy)
2. Comments from President Chris Roellke
3. Comments from Provost Elizabeth Skomp
4. Comments from Faculty Senate Chair Josh Rust
5. Updates on the 3/2+1 Initiative (Tim Peter and Steven Smallpage, Steering Committee Co-Chairs)

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 by Provost Skomp.

Provost Skomp gave a brief welcome and then turned the floor over to Meg Young and Amy Smith.

1. Inclusive pedagogy and practices (Amy Smith and Meg Young, Brown Center Faculty Fellows for Inclusive Pedagogy)

Amy Smith and Meg Young began their remarks with a focus on inclusive pedagogy and practices. Drs. Young and Smith explained that their work within the Brown Center is aligned with institutional goals by reimagining Stetson's curriculum to serve its diverse student population.

Dr. Smith elaborated on their current work with the inclusive pedagogy cohort, consisting of eight colleagues from various departments. Their discussions are centered around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, with future sessions planned to explore power and privilege in the classroom.

The cohort announced a book study on *Deculturalization and the Struggle for Equality* by Joel Spring, chosen after a rigorous selection process focusing on authorship and diversity. Dr. Young emphasized the importance of representing diverse voices in course materials and invited attendees to reflect on the authorship of their syllabi.

Dr. Smith and Dr. Young concluded with gratitude to Provost Skomp, organizers, and attendees for their support and participation.

Provost Skomp thanked Meg and Amy and expressed her excitement for seeing their future work.

2. Comments from President Chris Roellke

President Roellke expressed gratitude for the collective efforts in advancing Stetson University's strategic priorities. Emphasizing the university's commitment to fostering rich relationships, he

highlighted the ongoing strategic planning efforts. He explained that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee has developed an eight-page document that is aligned with the university's vision of transforming from Florida Gem to National Treasure by 2030.

President Roellke then outlined the key priorities for the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting in February, to be held at the College of Law in Gulfport. Sessions will cover strategic priorities, enrollment and marketing updates, and College of Law academic program highlights. He then noted that despite federal delays in financial aid processing, Stetson has seen positive trends in applications and deposits, with deposits up by over 20%.

Acknowledging recent changes in the Board's structure, President Roellke commended the Faculty Senate for their involvement in committee appointments, enhancing shared governance. He concluded by announcing upcoming events, including Kindness Week celebrations and basketball games where he and John Downey will engage with students.

3. Comments from Provost Elizabeth Skomp

Provost Skomp provided updates on various searches and Academic Affairs priorities. She announced the search for a new registrar concluded successfully, with Jamie Vanderlip assuming the role in January. Additionally, the search for the next Dean of the duPont Ball Library and Learning Technologies is nearing its final stages, with an announcement expected soon.

In the College of Arts and Sciences Dean search, semifinalist interviews have concluded, and four finalists are scheduled to visit campus starting the week of February 19. Detailed information about opportunities to engage with the finalists will be provided to the faculty.

Provost Skomp highlighted Stetson's positive response to national conversations about higher education, emphasizing the institution's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. She also discussed her participation in the AAC&U Annual Meeting, highlighting conversations about pluralism and civic discourse.

With respect to Academic Affairs priorities, Provost Skomp mentioned the ongoing efforts to enhance experiential, contemporary, and integrative learning through initiatives such as the 3/2+1 initiative. She also announced the upcoming posting of a new Senior Grants Administrator position to support grant-seeking sustainability at Stetson.

Acknowledgments were made to faculty members participating in various working groups and task forces, including the 3/2+1 Steering Committee, the Generative AI working group, and the FAR Task Force. In addition, faculty appointments to the Student Experience and Success Committee and the Financial Health Committee were announced.

Provost Skomp emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration and support for academic initiatives and thanked faculty members for their contributions to various committees and working groups.

4. Comments from Faculty Senate Vice Chair Steven Smallpage

Dr. Smallpage provided updates on Senate activities and priorities. He highlighted the progress made in board appointments for faculty, emphasizing the significance of shared governance and transparent communication. The Senate discussed the FAR Task Force and the ongoing effort to create a current faculty handbook.

Dr. Smallpage discussed the Senate's plans to reform Student Evaluation of Teaching instruments to address bias and ensure effectiveness. He also announced upcoming Senate elections and shared governance reform discussions aimed at streamlining service commitments.

Furthermore, Dr. Smallpage outlined the Senate's focus on enrollment, finance, and compensation, emphasizing the importance of predictive modeling and aligning budgets with the university's size and mission. He concluded by mentioning forthcoming communications from the Senate chairs and expressed appreciation for ongoing efforts towards inclusive policies, such as parental leave.

Faculty were encouraged to participate in upcoming Senate elections and engage in discussions on shared governance reform.

Provost Skomp then provided some remarks regarding upcoming faculty meetings in Spring 2024 that will focus on budget and finance, as well as faculty compensation. Two dates in April have been set aside to address these topics separately, following recognition from last year that these topics could not be addressed adequately at a single meeting. The last meeting in April will be in person and include lunch.

5. Updates on the 3/2+1 Initiative (Tim Peter and Steven Smallpage, Steering Committee Co-Chairs)

Dr. Smallpage and Dr. Peter provided updates on the progress and timeline of the 3/2+1 initiative, emphasizing the importance of shared governance and collaboration. Dr. Smallpage expressed gratitude for the positive engagement of faculty and administrators in shaping the initiative. The steering committee, formed in September, has worked diligently to define the concept of "plus one" and its implications for allocation of faculty time and student engagement. The focus has been on developing a pilot program to test the initiative's feasibility.

Dr. Peter highlighted the inclusive approach of the steering committee, which includes representatives from various departments and schools. Additionally, a marketing subcommittee has been established to develop strategies for promoting the initiative to students and the broader community.

Both speakers emphasized the ongoing evaluation and adaptation of the initiative, recognizing that challenges may arise but expressing confidence in the collaborative effort to ensure its success. They invited faculty to contribute ideas and feedback, particularly to the marketing subcommittee, to support the effective implementation of the 3/2+1 initiative.

Dr. Smallpage elaborated on the role of the steering committee formed in September and outlined its charge to develop and guide the 3/2+1 proposal toward implementation. Subcommittees were established to address various aspects of the initiative, including defining the "plus one" component, which aims to enhance student engagement and curricular enrichment.

Dr. Peter emphasized the significance of the pilot program as a learning opportunity, stressing the need for ongoing assessment and evaluation. He outlined the timeline for the pilot program, including the review process for plus one proposals and the involvement of the marketing and assessment committees.

The discussion also touched upon the importance of cross-departmental collaboration and communication, particularly regarding similar plus one proposals. Faculty members expressed interest in sharing best practices and ideas, with plans for sessions to facilitate discussions and idea-sharing.

There were suggestions for greater faculty involvement in student recruitment activities, emphasizing direct interactions between faculty and prospective students. The meeting concluded with acknowledgments of ongoing efforts and a commitment to continued collaboration and progress.

Dr. Peter reminded everyone that this process is ongoing and much more work needs to be done.

Provost Skomp thanked everyone for their good work and concluded the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.