

Boston University Faculty Council

Minutes of the Meeting

February 1, 2017

The sixth regular meeting of the Boston University Faculty Council for the 2016-2017 Session was held on February 1, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. on the Charles River Campus, 595 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 404. J. Robb Dixon, Chair of the Faculty Council, presided over the meeting. The following members attended:

Representatives and Alternates

Charilaos Asikis (GSDM), Alt.

John Bernstein (COM), R.

Rebecca Bourgault (CFA), Alt.

Joel Brandwine (CFA), R.

Charles Chang (CAS), R.

Roberta Clarke (Questrom), R.

Shea Cronin (MET), R.

Theresa Davies-Heerema (MED), R.

Cristian De La Rosa (STH), R.

A. Rani Elwy (SPH), R.

Ivan Fernandez-Val (CAS), R.

Matthew Fox (SPH), Alt.

Liah Greenfeld (CAS), R.

Virginia Greiman (MET), Alt.

Gisela Hoecherl-Alden (CAS), R.

Mark Horenstein (ENG), R.

Alison Kirby-Jones (Questrom), R.

Julie Klinger (Pardee), R.

Cataldo Leone (GSDM), R.

Neal Leavitt (CGS), R.

Ching-Ti Liu (SPH), Alt.

Donna McLaughlin (SSW), R.

Karen Metheny (MET), Alt.

Eileen O'Keefe (SAR), R.

Carole Palumbo (MED), R.

James Pasto (CAS), R.

Marnie Reed (SED), R.

Stephen Roberts (GDSM), R.

Bruce Schulman (CAS), R.

Woosung Sohn (GSDM), R.

Anne Sullivan-Soydan (SAR), Alt.

Kathryn Webster (SAR), Alt.

Committee Chairs

John Carroll, Media and Communication

Yvette Cozier, Equity and Inclusion

Kathe Darr, Awards

James Hamilton, Research

Rebecca Kinraide, Teaching Resources
Hee-Young Park, Graduate Programs
Donald Smith, Compensation and Benefits
Joyce Walsh, Student Life

J. Robb Dixon, Chair
Janelle Heineke, Secretary-treasurer

Member without a vote

Margo Miller, R. (CELOP)

Guest

Officers

Steve Brady, Past Chair

Amanda Miller, Callie Sopper, and Deepti
Nijhawan, Office of Global Programs

I. Secretary's Report: Approval of the Minutes

There being a quorum, the minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting were approved without objection.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Dixon informed the Council that the nomination period for the John S. Perkins Award for Distinguished service is open and will close on February 28, 2017. The Faculty Assembly will receive a notice via email shortly. Details are on the Faculty Council website.

The next Faculty Council meeting will be held on the MED Campus in the Hiebert Lounge and start at 3:45 p.m. Council members have an opportunity to tour the NEIDL before the meeting. The Chair encouraged members to contact the director for more information.

III. School/College Reports

Chair Dixon asked the representatives to report on the issues that concern the faculty of their school or college this year. The following issues were common to more than one college:

- Academic and personal support for international students

- Lack of tenure at some schools and colleges and the effect on recruitment and retention and the lack of opportunity for sabbatical
- Standards of review and promotion for non tenure-track faculty, benchmarks to evaluate scholarly work of NTT faculty
- Integration of unionized faculty with the non-unionized faculty
- Concern about the future of the University's global programs, international student enrollment, faculty travel and research, given the actions of the federal government
- Increased enrollment in some undergraduate programs, without concomitant increase in resources
- Effect of the new health insurance plans on health care usage and impact of increased costs on employees
- Child care availability on MED and CRC

In addition, Council members raised concerns about diversity recruitment and retention and the lack of diversity data about lecturers; about the credit hour conversion and its impact on curricula and classroom planning; about the lack of clarity around the tuition remission program; about the impact of the discontinuation of tuition scholarship funds for Master's students.

A general discussion followed. Chair Dixon said he would raise some of these issues with the President and the Provost. Some of the issues are currently being studied and will be addressed.

IV. Guest: Amanda Miller, Managing Director, Global Programs

Amanda Miller, Callie Sopper, and Deepti Nijhawan from the Office of Global Programs joined the meeting to update the Council about its initiatives to support international students.

Ms. Miller reported that the online orientation module, "BU First Class," launched last summer. The next version is in development and some of the modules will be customized for individual schools. Currently, BU First Class offers modules about: academic code of conduct, plagiarism, academic integrity, classroom culture, classroom participation, group work, syllabi, office hours. Ms. Miller said her office is also working to provide resources for faculty as well.

A general discussion followed. A Council member asked if BU First Class can be compulsory for incoming students. Ms. Miller said that decision is up to the schools and colleges, but Global Programs could support that requirement. A Council member asked how long it takes to complete the module. Ms. Sopper said it takes three hours, but students do not have to complete it in one sitting. The module is broken into two to three minute segments. A Council member

asked if students can complete only a part of the program. Ms. Sopper said that they can, and some students chose to do only a part of it. She said that more graduate students participated in the program than undergraduates. For the next version of the module, they might develop special programs for graduate students.

A Council member asked what resources are behind these modules, for example, for writing support and could more resources be made available. Ms. Miller said that the module points students to The Hub (soon to be renamed), which has lots of connections for resources within the university, but Global Programs has not created new resources in relation to the module. A Council member suggested that the students who have completed the module should be asked to provide information about what makes some professors more effective in connecting with them than others. Ms. Miller liked the suggestion and said she would look into doing that.

A Council member suggested that the university should make a plan for what to do if some of our students are not able to remain in the country due to changes in the visa program. We should have a way to connect with them remotely so they can continue their studies. Ms. Miller said that will require more work, but her office can look into what technologies are readily available.

V. New business and adjournment

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Heineke

Secretary-treasurer