



Minutes of the Meeting April 2, 2019

The eighth regular meeting of the Boston University Faculty Council for the 2018-2019 Session was held on April 2 at 3:30 p.m. in the Kenmore Conference Room, 1 Silber Way, Room 916. Cataldo Leone, Chair of the Faculty Council, presided over the meeting.

Officers and Committee Chairs							
X	Leone, Cataldo	Chair	GSDM	X	O'Keefe, Eileen	Faculty Policies	SAR
X	Dixon, J. Robb	Past Chair	QST	X	Howard, Kimberly A.S.	Graduate Programs	WCEHD
X	O'Keefe, Eileen	Secretary-Treasurer	SAR			Media/Communication	COM
X	Hamilton, James	Academic Freedom	MED		Henderson, Andy	Research	MED
X	Hoecherl-Alden, Gisela	Awards	CAS	X	Hughes, Jeffrey	Student Policies	CAS
		Compensation and Benefits	QST	X	Dixon, J. Robb	Sustainability	QST
X	Brady, Steve	Credentials and By-laws	MED	X	Kinraide, Rebecca	Teaching Resources	CAS
X	Cozier, Yvette	Equity and Inclusion	SPH	X	O'Brien Hallstein, D. Lynn	Undergraduate Programs	CGS
Representatives and Alternates							
	Abbott, Jodi (R)	MED			Furman, Jeff (R)	QST	X
	Abrams, Binjamin (R)	CAS			Gapotchenko, Maria (R)	CAS	
	Amato, Felice (R)	CFA			Garik Peter (A)	WCEHD	
X	Ampountolas, Apostolos (R)	SHA	X		Gavornik, Jeffrey (R)	CAS	X
	Andres, Andy (R)	CGS			Gopalan, Srikanth (R)	ENG	
X	Austin, Judy (A)	COM			Griffin, Sue (R)	CAS	X
	Beaton, Jamie (A)	CELOP			Hopper, Clay (A)	CFA	X
	Bor, Jacob (R)	SPH			Huckle, Nicholas (R)	CAS	
X	Brandwine, Joel (R)	CFA	X		Jafarzadeh, S. Reza (R)	MED	X
	Breehan, James (A)	CFA					
	Byttebier, Stephanie (A)	CGS			Kealy, Sean (R)	LAW	X
X	Chang, Charles (R)	CAS			Kirby Jones, Alison (A)	QST	X
	Chogle, Sami (R)	GSDM			Klinger, Julie (R)	Pardee	X
	Choi, Hee An (A)	GSDM	X		Liu, Ching-Ti (A)	SPH	
X	D'Amato, Laura (A)	LAW			Liu, Chunyu (R)	SPH	
	Dashoush, Nermeen (A)	WCEHD	X		Lopez, Luz (A)	SSW	X
	Davies-Heerema, Theresa (R)	MED	X		Lynch, Shawn (A)	CGS	X
X	Decosimo, David (R)	STH	X		Masters, Joellen (R)	CGS	X
X	DeNatale, Doug (A)	MET			McLaughlin, Donna (R)	SSW	
	Dibart, Serge (A)	GSDM	X		Miller, Margo (R)	CELOP	X
	Doherty, Mary-Jane (R)	COM	X		Mochida, Yoshiyuki (A)	GSDM	X
X	El Hachem, Lea (R)	GSDM			Mody, Makarand (A)	SHA	
X	Ellenwood, Stephan (R)	WCEHD			Mulvihill, Maggie (A)	COM	X
	Errante, Margaret (A)	GSDM	X		Myers, Samantha (R)	CAS	X
X	Feng, Hui (R)	MED			Nentwich, Lauren (R)	MED	
	Fernandez-Val, Ivan (R)	CAS					

I. Secretary's Report: Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 5, 2019 Faculty Council meeting were approved.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Leone informed the Council that the proposed changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Assembly/Faculty Council are still under review. The Council will receive another draft for further comment. Chair Leone and Credentials and By-laws Committee Chair Steve Brady said that the Council should vote on this matter in Spring 2019, in order to send the online ballot to the Faculty Assembly in early Fall 2019.

Chair Leone reported that the Faculty Council has a team in the Fitbit Walking Challenge. "Team Faculty Council" has room for a few more members, if anyone would like to join.

III. Awards Committee: 2019 John S. Perkins Award Winners

Gisela Hoecherl-Alden, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented the recommendations for the 2019 John S. Perkins Award winners:

Dennis Carlberg
Associate Vice President for University Sustainability
Sustainability Program

Caroline Lyman
Assistant Director
BU Interdisciplinary Programs
Graduate Program in Bioinformatics

Gloria Murray
Administrative Coordinator
Department of Economics
College of Arts and Sciences

There being a quorum, the Faculty Council voted unanimously to approve the Committee's selection.

The Perkins Awards will be presented at a special ceremony in the Metcalf Trustee Center, One Silber Way, 9th Floor, on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., immediately after the Faculty Council meeting.

IV. Guests: Gillian Pierce, Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment; Suzanne Kennedy, Senior Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs

Dr. Pierce and Ms. Kennedy joined the meeting to discuss the upcoming New England Commission on Higher Education's (NECHE, formerly NEASC) accreditation site visit. They outlined the components of

the accreditation process which includes an institutional self-evaluation, peer review, commission review and ongoing oversight. Dr. Pierce and Ms. Kennedy discussed the development of accreditation in the U.S. and presented the newer standards of review. The current issues under review by NECHE include student success and debt load; policies around credit hours, transfer credits, distance education; dual and joint degree programs; mergers and partnerships; as examples. Dr. Pierce and Ms. Kennedy shared the planning timeline, which commenced in April 2018 and will conclude with a site visit for the accreditation team in October. The team will visit the University October 27 through October 30, 2019. Faculty Council members were asked to reserve those dates for a possible meeting with the team.

V. Guests: Jean Morrison, University Provost & Chief Academic Officer; Elizabeth Loizeaux, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

a. Governance and Management of the BU Hub

University Provost Morrison and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Elizabeth Loizeaux joined the meeting to address the Council's concerns about governance and management of the BU Hub.

Dr. Loizeaux informed the Council that the current plan requires transfer students to complete ten HUB units. Ninety percent (90%) of transfer students enter BU at the end of freshman year; seven percent (7%) enter with junior standing and three percent (3%) with senior standing. The University aims to increase the number of transfer students to over one-thousand annually. Transfer students are an important and growing demographic of undergraduates. Dr. Loizeaux provided a detailed overview of the BU Hub Working Group's methodology and its objective to establish an academically sound and manageable transfer policy that recognizes students' past work, meets the goals of the BU Hub, and ensures that transfer students receive the full benefits of a Boston University education.

A general discussion followed. The Council raised whether this policy should be sent through eDAAP or eCAP for approval and whether this was a question of governance, or management, of the Hub. Provost Morrison said that the original number of BU Hub units for students was not sent through eDAAP for approval and that the BU Hub Working Group was charged to resolve how to treat transfer credits as part of the overall implementation of the BU Hub, which was already approved by University Council. Dr. Loizeaux reviewed the BU Hub governance structure, which was presented at University Council in February. Faculty Council members expressed concern that there is no direct reporting requirement for the BU Hub Council up to University Council. Provost Morrison noted that provision could be made for the University Council to receive a regular report about the management of the BU Hub.

b. Free Speech Committees

The Faculty Council raised questions about academic freedom in the context of the recently formed Free Speech Committees. Provost Morrison said there is a policy committee and an implementation committee. The policy committee is charged with drafting the narrative of the University's commitment to free speech. The implementation committee is charged with making recommendations about how to protect the right to free speech in the University's various spaces – public spaces, dormitories,

classrooms, etc. A Council member raised concern that the committees did not have sufficient representation of faculty members. The same member asked how the Free Speech Committees' work will affect academic freedom in the classroom. As it is now, some faculty feel threatened when they pose questions in the classroom for the purpose of intellectual inquiry. Some viewpoints are unwelcome among the students and faculty feel censored and dissuaded from pressing different views in discussion. Among the faculty, some junior colleagues have been advised by senior colleagues to edit the content of their curriculum.

Provost Morrison indicated that we need to make a distinction between academic freedom and free speech. The faculty has the right to include topics and challenging ideas within their disciplinary norms. Academic freedom and free speech are not interchangeable terms. The Provost went on to say that junior colleagues who have been told by senior colleagues not to include certain content are being subjected to inappropriate meddling in their courses. However, the University needs to be aware of the complexity and types of speech behavior our students experience in the classroom and on line. Another Council member said that some of these complex issues around speech manifest in online communications that occur on the periphery of a course, largely unknown to the instructor. Provost Morrison said that the free speech committees will conduct extensive listening sessions with the faculty and the greater University community. A Council member suggested that the dividing line between academic freedom and free speech should be discussed at these listening sessions to be scheduled in the near future.

VI. New business and adjournment

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen O'Keefe

Secretary-treasurer