

Meeting Minutes of the Faculty Student Council  
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 2:30-4:30pm  
via Zoom

**Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes**

Elizabeth Geltman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. She requested and received approval to record the session and for approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2020. She noted that an FSC site, which includes a discussion board, has been created on Blackboard. The SPH community has access to this site. She said that her goal for FSC meetings is to send the agenda and materials one week in advance, which will require presenters to submit their materials at least nine days before the meeting.

**Introduction of New Hires**

Ashish Joshi introduced three new faculty and staff members who started this semester: Professor Suzanne McDermott, Associate Professor Sasha Fleary, and Student Career Program Manager Laura Maltz. Ashish also congratulated Elizabeth on her new role as Chair of the FSC.

**Report on the Committee on Equity and Inclusion**

*Sahana Gupta, Chief Diversity Officer*

Sahana reported on the newly proposed Committee on Equity and Inclusion, which will replace the Dean's ad hoc Campus Climate Committee established in 2018. That Committee made several significant contributions on issues of staff equity and recognition. The SPH leadership has proposed the establishment of a Committee on Equity and Inclusion in order to further deepen the School's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and to create a Committee with enhanced authority and accountability. The Committee, which will be an elected, 12-member committee composed of faculty, students and staff with the addition of the Chief Diversity Officer as an ex-officio member, will be established this semester as a Dean's Committee. Later, the Committee will be established as a Committee of the FSC, once the proposed revised Governance Plan has been approved. Sahana then reviewed the results of the "Racial Equity and Racial Justice Survey" conducted in July 2020. Among its results was agreement with the creation of this new committee. She then reviewed some of the details of the nomination and election guidelines procedures and noted that additional information will be distributed to the community. She expects to announce the results of the election at the FSC's next meeting on October 28, 2020.

**Dean's Report**

Ayman welcomed Elizabeth to her first meeting as Chair, noting that he is excited about her leadership, and he added his welcome to the three new faculty and staff members. He thanked Senior Associate Dean Susan Klitzman and her team for their great work on the SPH CUNY Reopening Plan, which was the first plan to be approved by CUNY Central. He noted that all SPH classes this semester are being conducted online and

the SPH campus is allowing entry only in a very limited way. He thanked everyone for a smooth transition to online which has not compromised the quality of teaching, administration or research in any way. In an abundance of caution, all courses for spring 2021 will also be converted to online, though no decision about reopening has been made. Turning to the budget for this fiscal year, the Dean said that CUNY Central has not yet finalized the school's budget due to the NYS budget shortfall and uncertainty caused by COVID-19. SPH's budget reflects a 10% decrease, as requested by the Central Office, but this too, is not yet final. The hiring freeze implemented last spring by CUNY leadership also continues. The school's saving grace is the excellent fall admissions, including a robust incoming class. There were 290 new MPH and MS students, an increase of 45% from last year, and an enrollment of 372 new students in all, reflecting an increase of 109 students. He commended the Student and Academic, IT, and Communications teams for their incredible efforts: Lynn Roberts, Meg Krudysz, Amina Alam, Akilah Phillip-Salmon, Matt Paczkowski, Robyn Gertner, Katucha Louis, Esther Cortorreal, Melissa Sangster, Molly Ghosh, Lea Dias, Velvet Brown, Barbara Aaron, Sumana Chandra, Ariana Costakes, Mohit Arora, Julian Juro and Jon Pratico. Thanks also goes to the admissions committee chairs and faculty. Ayman noted that the excellent results in enrollment, as well as the significant increase in the generation of research dollars, was acknowledged by CUNY leadership at the last COPs meeting.

### **Governance Plan**

*Patricia Stein, Executive Counsel and Labor Designee*

Ayman introduced Patricia Stein, CUNY SPH legal counsel, and asked her to summarize the key issues for discussion and votes with regard to finalizing approval of SPH's revised Governance Plan. Pat thanked the Ad Hoc Governance Plan Task Force members who worked last year on the Governance Plan revisions over many meetings and which was also discussed last spring in a March Town Hall meeting, at various departmental and other faculty meetings, and on a special April FSC call. She referred the FSC to the blue-lined Plan in the meeting materials, which underscores the revisions. She said most of the plan revisions have been agreed upon by the members of the Ad Hoc Governance Task Force, and she briefly summarized the significant approved revisions.

In response to the question of whether the votes are public, Pat said that the vote must be done in public and the records of the voting must be made available to the public, as required by the Open Meetings Law. She then summarized the three remaining issues not resolved by the members of the Ad Hoc Governance Task Force which require a vote of the FSC at today's meeting, to be followed by two votes. The first to petition the FSC to review the need for a change to the Governance Plan. And another vote to adopt the proposed Governance Plan included the revisions made during the FSC meeting:

#### **Issue 1: Vote on one of the two following options concerning the election of a Department Chair:**

Option 1: Each department shall nominate and recommend to the Dean by majority vote an individual to serve as Chairperson, who must be a tenured member of the faculty at the rank of associate professor or higher. If the Dean rejects the nominee, the department will hold a second election. If the Dean rejects the second nominee, the Dean may select a Chairperson from within the department or from another department after consultation with the department, or may initiate a search for a Chairperson, subject to financial ability.

Option 2: Each department shall nominate and recommend to the Dean by majority vote an

individual to serve as Chairperson, who must be a tenured member of the faculty at the rank of associate professor or higher. If the Dean rejects the nominee, the department will hold a second election. If the Dean rejects the second nominee, the Dean may select a Chairperson from within the department or from another department after a vote on the selectee by the department, or may initiate a search for a Chairperson, subject to financial ability.

**Issue 2: Vote on one of the following options as to the form of representation that faculty, staff, and students will have in reviewing and commenting on the budget:**

Option 1: Add a budget committee as one of the Council's standing committees.

Option 2: Expand the School-Wide APT committee role to include budget.

Option 3: Add budget review as an enumerated responsibility of the Council itself.

**Issue 3: Vote on whether the Dean or his/her designee should be a non-voting member of the School-wide APT Committee:**

Yes or No.

**In lieu of a petition set out in the existing Governance Plan:**

**Vote on whether to propose the amendments to the Governance Plan that are included in the blue-lined draft plan provided on September 2, 2020, as revised by the voting determinations concerning the Department Chair selection, form of FSC budget responsibility, and administration presence on the School-wide APT Committee actions:**

Yes or No.

**Final Vote for Approval:**

**If yes to the last vote, vote on whether to adopt the proposed revisions to the Governance Plan:**

Yes or No.

It was then determined that a quorum was present (38 voting members) and that 2/3rds of the full voting membership of 47 (31 votes) is needed to pass the three remaining proposed Governance Plan revisions.

Pat then discussed the two options regarding the election of a Department Chair in the event the first two proposed elected candidates are not approved by the Dean. The FSC Chair then called for a motion to hold a vote on the two options (after motion and second) the vote yielded the following results: Option 1, 16 votes; Option 2, 20 votes; Abstentions, 2. The motion did not carry.

Pat then discussed the vote on the form of representation that faculty, staff, and students will have in reviewing and commenting on the budget and presented the three options. E The FSC Chair called for a motion for a vote on the three options (after motion and second) the vote yielded the following result: Option 1, 32 votes; Option 2, 2 votes; Option 3, 2 votes; Abstentions, 2. The motion to approve Option 1—add a

budget committee as one of the Council's standing committees—carried and was approved by the FSC.

Pat then reviewed the third vote on today's meeting agenda on whether the Dean or his/her designee should be a non-voting member of the School-wide APT. Discussion followed. Ayman said that he should be in the discussions as appeals come to him for final decision and this would help him in this process. It also confirms the principle of shared governance. It was noted by some that the Dean's presence might change the dynamic of the discussion. It was also noted that the CUNY Board of Trustees By-laws recommend that the Dean participate as a non-voting member and this is the practice across CUNY; SPH is one of a few Schools that do not adhere to the recommended structure. The FSC Chair then called for a motion to hold a vote on yes or no regarding the Dean or his/her designee as a non-voting member of the School-wide APT Committee; (after motion and second, the vote yielded the following result: Yes, 23 votes; No, 11 votes; Abstentions 5. The motion did not carry.

Pat asked the FSC to consider again the two options regarding the selection of a third candidate for the Department Chair. An FSC member asked if having another vote on the same matter in the same meeting was changing the procedure. Discussion followed. The FSC Chair then called for a motion to hold a vote on the two options. After motion and second, a second vote was held. The second vote yielded the following result: Option 1, 1 vote; Option 2, 33 votes; Abstentions, 1. The motion to adopt Option 2— regarding the selection of a third candidate for Department Chair—carried in the second vote and was approved.

The FSC took up a third vote on whether the Dean or designee should be a non-voting member of the School-wide APT with the following result: Yes, 22 votes; No, 14 votes, Abstentions, 2. The motion did not carry. Ad hoc Governance Committee Task Force member Nick Freudenberg said that the Dean and the APT Committee need to communicate. He recommended further discussion to determine alternative means or modifications to the existing structure of the APT that allow for the Dean's participation and/or communication with the APT. He said that a consensus can be reached on the Dean's role. It was also suggested that the ad hoc Governance Task Force perhaps convene town hall meeting(s) to discuss this issue further with the all FSC voting members.

*Ghada Soliman, Admissions Committee Chair*

Ghada said that due to the length of the discussion on the Governance Plan, she submits her report from the Admission Committee into the record, noting that it was emailed to the FSC, in advance of the meeting. She requested that the delayed admissions matters be discussed at the next FSC meeting.

### **Assessment Committee Report**

*Ilias Kavouras, Assessment Committee Chair*

Ilias also said that he will submit the Assessment Committee report on the COACHE survey to the FSC Blackboard discussion board for the record and for review by the FSC. He requested that the delayed COACHE matters be discussed at the next FSC meeting.

### **APT Committee Report**

*Christian Grov, APT Committee Chair*

Christian said that his report on the APT calendar, which was emailed to the FSC, is submitted for the record. The report was on the 2020-2021 APT calendar and he said those considering promotion or tenure should

review the calendar.

**Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs' Report**

*Ashish Joshi, Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs*

Ashish said that his report, which was emailed to the FSC, is submitted for the record.

**Dean for Research's Report**

*Michele Kiely, Associate Dean for Research, SPaR*

Michele said that her report, which was emailed to the FSC, is submitted for the record.

**Senior Associate Dean of Administration's Report**

*Susan Klitzman, Senior Associate Dean of Administration*

Susan said that her report, which was to be about the CUNY Reopening Plan and other procedures related to coming to campus, will be deferred to a later meeting, and she referred the FSC to the SPH website, where detailed information, including the Plan, is posted.

THE FSC Chair then invited Spring Cooper and Meredith Manze to make announcements. Spring said that she is setting up groups and discussions on anti-racism and invited all to join. Details will be forthcoming. Meredith said that she has set up a blackboard online writing boot camp, and interested faculty should contact her.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the FSC Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doris Suarez