

College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Friday Sept 27th, 2024
2:00 – 4:00pm, Microsoft Teams

Dean Spiller; Toru Shimizu; Allison Cleveland-Roberts; Tangela Serls; Jennifer Collins (joined after her meeting); Maria Corton; Jennifer Friedman; Adriana Novoa; Mahuya Pal; Tammy Allen; Thomas Pluckhahn; Stephen Song; Hariharan Srikanth; Mohamed Elhamdadi

- I. Call to Order (Adriana Novoa, associate chair)
- II. Minutes for the 8/23/2024 meeting were approved.
- III. Committee Liaisons gave an update. There was nothing urgent to report.
 - a. Library Committee (Kissi)
 - b. Diversity Committee (Friedman)

The committee has a new chair. The committee is looking for more clarity in the language of the law.

- c. Faculty Development Committee (Allen)

A sub-committee on AI is under consideration. The committee met with Dr. Serls. The committee aims to develop an understanding of what the university sanctioned options are for digital record keeping and communication among CAS.

Dr. Serls did not have anything more to share. However, Dr. Serls said that the library committee is conducting a survey to see if there are any materials and books that faculty would like for the USF

library to try to acquire.

- d. Technology Committee (Corton)
- e. Grievance (Cleveland-Roberts)

IV. There was not much discussion on TEP Proposal and proposal on the Mental Health and Food Security, as Dr. Collins was at another meeting when this agenda item was discussed. Council had a brief discussion and there was agreement about continuing discussing this item in the November meeting.

V. There was a discussion about the lack of clarity of the list of courses that has been created for General Education to comply with SB 266. Dr. Novoa listed her concerns about the impact of the new law, and the lack of transparency and correct information about how courses would be approved and by whom. Dr. Cleveland-Roberts answered the questions of members about what we should expect. There was unanimous concern from Council members about the lack of information and the exclusion of certain fields from GE (Africana, WGS, Sociology). Dean Spiller explained that USF's GE was different from some other SUS universities because it was based primarily on skills, not on discipline- or content-based categories. The state statute defines specific disciplinary categories, and USF Gen. Ed. needs to be revised to be compliant with the statute. Further, the **BOG distributed a memo clarifying** that upper division courses cannot be part of GE; GE courses should be broad in scope and appropriate for students in any major; variable title and content courses cannot be part of GE. The Provost's office is working with the Faculty Senate and with Faculty Senate Gen Ed committee to develop a general education curriculum that aligns with this guidance.

VI. Dr. Collins led the discussion on the dates to meet the Provost Meeting to follow up our January 2024 meeting. She was asked to arrange a date to meet in January 2025.

VII. Dr. Collins was not able to lead the discussion on Faculty Retention because there was not enough time, but this has been an on-going faculty concern and we will discuss again in November.

- VIII. Dr. Allen led discussions on a) the use of Gift Cards as participant incentives, and the need to streamline the process, b) antiquated business systems in relation to grant administration, and c) problems in communication and coordination with sponsored research causing delays in getting grants set up. A big part of the third issue is due to the large amount of turnover with URAs.
- IX. Associate Dean Toru Shimizu discussed the post-tenure promotion process for this year. He explained the implementation and how many faculty members are evaluated this year. He said that 39 faculty members are going to be reviewed--25 of them are the required cohort and 14 were randomly selected.
- X. Dean Spiller provided updates on the situation of the college after the hurricane, and shared details about the issues faced by each campus. Next, she shared information about several new initiatives, aimed at recruiting and retaining great faculty.
- XII. Adjourn