

Faculty Executive Committee Meeting
October 16, 2023 3:00-4:00 pm
LIB 128A

Minutes

Participants: Dominique Vuvan (chair), Oscar Perez-Hernandez, Jeremy Day-O’Connell (scribe), Ting Li, Dean of Faculty Dorothy Mosby (invited)

I. Approval of minutes from Oct. 2, 2023

Minutes from our Oct. 2, 2023 meeting were approved.

II. Faculty meeting re-cap

We discussed the Oct. 6 Faculty Meeting, and in particular the COW that FEC organized. We recognized there were some technical issues with the online meeting, as well as a mismatch of expectations among many online participants, regarding their ability/interest in active engagement. We will meet with Nora Graubard regarding some of the technical issues prior to the next faculty meeting. We hope that faculty expectations might begin to change, with respect to participants’ active engagement in faculty meetings.

In general, we considered the COW to be a success and a model for more faculty-directed discussion at faculty meetings. We received an abundance of information regarding topics on people’s minds and have also followed up with an online survey (to close Oct. 20), for due diligence. We will be digesting and disseminating the talking points in the coming weeks.

As successful as the COW seemed to be, no discussion can substitute for meaningful action. We will be redirecting some of the generated topics/ideas to the relevant committees. We might also consider working groups on matters of particular importance and/or widespread concern.

III. Elections and Replacements for AY 2023-2024

We briefly discussed the elections and appointments process for AY 2023-24, noting happily that ballots have so far been populated by extremely willing candidates (many preference rankings of “1” and “2”).

IV. Governance review process planning

We briefly discussed the scheduled governance review process. Last year's preliminary efforts--including a faculty-only meeting--showed us that the system, while imperfect and inefficient basically conforms to our values. There are small things need to be tweaked, and some larger things that may need to be reviewed (such as divisional representation).

We are going to ask committee chairs to self-audit, taking stock of operating codes, procedures for selection of chairs, etc.

We will return to this planning at a later date.

V. Dean Dorothy Mosby

Dean Mosby joined us for approximately 30 minutes.

She began with an overview of the Middle States reaccreditation process, the initial stages of which will begin in January. She and Kelly Sheppard will co-chair. There may need to be as many as 5–7 working groups--one for each of the accreditation standards. The process will take a full year of “on the ground” work, plus 3–4 months to prepare a draft. The process wraps up in 2025-26 with a site visit.

We then discussed the unionization process and the need for transparency and consultation. We discussed the idea of one or more faculty forums; these would involve only tenure-track faculty. What Dean Mosby would like to get out of such conversations would be: to field questions, to provide updates, and to garner the input of faculty. Some matters under consideration that would benefit from tenure-track faculty input have to do with appointments, review, and timelines for contract terms and renewals. (On certain other matters, such as financial issues and labor practices, tenure-track faculty input is not appropriate or possible.) Dean Mosby has scheduled meetings at the end of October with chairs and program directors concerning the ways in which NTT faculty are engaged in their departments/programs.

The FEC Chair will work with Dean Mosby to schedule a 1 hour 15 minute forum, possibly with a duplicate meeting to accommodate schedules. This is a start. Further meetings will be necessary, and possibly a working group.