

January 17,
2017
Jones Room

Emory University Faculty Council Meeting Summary



The Faculty Council serves as the chief representative body of the faculty. Its membership includes elected and appointed faculty members representing all nine of Emory's schools and colleges.

Communication Infrastructure

Laney Graduate School Christine Dunham outlined the organizational structure of Laney Graduate School (LGS) and its three faculty governance bodies. She emphasized the barriers for dissemination of information from the two University Faculty Council (UFC) representatives to LGS, and she introduced two proposed solutions: (1) to implement communication tools as a newsletter or email list and (2) to secure a place for UFC representatives on the LGS executive council meeting agendas to report regularly. **School of Medicine** Jason Schneider, on behalf of the five School of Medicine (SOM) representatives summarized the complicated organizational structure of the SOM. Faculty governance is composed of several committees. Schneider listed several steps they are planning to take for improving their communication infrastructure, including the discussion of UFC business as a regular agenda item for the Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee, development of "digestable" e-mails summarizing UFC business with hyperlinks for additional detail, publicizing the names of elected and appointed faculty representatives with means for providing input, and providing opportunity for departments and divisions to request in-person "town halls" to discuss faculty affairs.

Title VII and Title IX Working Group

Pamela Scully provided a quick update about the working group. It has been compiling the research performed on mandatory reporting conditions in different peer institutions. Some universities make all faculty a responsible party like Emory, whereas other universities such as the University of Michigan and California Institute of Technology make only faculty in advisory capacities responsible parties. **UFC motion:** Scully made a motion to invite Professor of Law Risa Lieberwitz from Cornell University to give a talk on Title VII / Title IX with sponsorship of the UFC. This talk will be an open discussion session for all Emory faculty. The motion passed with no opposition.

DACA for Emory Students

Wendland said this is essentially a Senate discussion topic, as it pertains to all components of the University, and it is on the University Senate's January 24, 2017 agenda. Interim Provost Zola clarified the University Administration is not using the term "Sanctuary," although it fully supports the undocumented students. He further described how the University is working on the "Bridge Act," which would provide three additional years for the DACA students, while Congress works out the vision for them either to follow a pathway ending up with citizenship or to reframe the pathway to help those students to move forward.

University Research Committee

URC co-chair Jim Nagy brought two motions to the UFC: (1) **UFC motions:** Modification of URC mission statement to expand the scope by explicitly stating that the URC should also be a communication channel between Emory faculty and other research advisory bodies of the University, and (2) Three new members of the URC be appointed by the URC Co-Chairs and the Faculty Council Executive Committee, in consultation with the Vice Provost for Strategic Research Initiatives, to serve on an interim basis for the rest of the 2016 – 2017 academic year. Both motions carried with no opposition.

Faculty Club

John Bugge spoke first and reminded UFC members about the need for a club. Mike Kutner reported on the recent survey, noting nearly 40% of the Emory faculty from different schools and academic ranks responded. Kutner presented responses to the survey for each individual question in a quantitative manner. **UFC motion:** Based on the positive results of the survey, the UFC unanimously passed a motion to support the Planning Committee to work with the University administration for implementation that will locate a faculty-club facility in the Campus Life Center (newly renovated Dobbs University Center), or at another central location on campus.

Faculty Life Course Committee on Class and Labor II Report

Angela Amar, chair of the FLCC, first reminded UFC members that their committee was charged to extract key issues around faculty culture from the report. She listed their recommendations as follows: (1) implicit bias training for the classroom, (2) reframe diversity to include diversity of music, speakers, who we bring here, and (3) enhancing community at Emory. After discussion about "civility and respect," Amar said she would take it back to the committee to draft a statement on "civility/respect" for the UFC to consider adopting.

Remarks from Provost

Interim Provost Zola addressed the UFC mainly around two topics: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for Emory Students and University administration's action in response to RAS task force report. Zola summarized a number of initiatives by the University that are already in place or currently being implemented for DACA students, including financial support, privacy rights, and a possible immigration clinic through the Law School. Zola acknowledged the RAS units are in principle the right idea, but, since they have been understaffed, they could not have had enough opportunities to operate well. The University administration has identified two RAS units, Basic Sciences and Yerkes, as pilot units for a project to test whether a RAS unit would exhibit a complete functioning in three to six months given it is provided with all the required logistics and needs. If successful, these pilot units would serve as models to enhance RAS at Emory.

See the complete [Faculty Council Minutes](#) and visit the [Faculty Council website](#) for more information.