

March 21, 2017
Jones Room
3:15 – 5 PM

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.

Faculty Life Course Committee

Angela Amar, chair of the Faculty Life Course Committee, brought forward its draft on “civility and respect” in response to the UFC’s request in the January 2017 meeting (see the March 21 minutes for the full statement). **UFC Motion:** To endorse this statement with its amended title as “Faculty Civility Statement.” The motion carried unanimously. **UFC Motion:** To include the discussion of this statement in the agenda for the next University Senate meeting. The motion was passed with one abstention and no opposition.

Communication Infrastructure IV

School of Law (SOL) Representative Jim Hughes presented an organizational chart showing how faculty governance works in the SOL, which involves ten standing faculty committees. Faculty meet twice a month, and all faculty have the right to vote. Internal communications are handled via email listservers, a weekly newsletter, and closed-circuit televisions in their buildings. Their communications director facilitates the communication both within and outside the SOL. **Goizueta Business School (GBS)** representative Anand Swaminathan summarized the overall GBS faculty dissatisfaction with its faculty governance, citing a survey in the Spring 2014 in the *Academic Exchange* and interviews conducted by its *ad hoc* governance committee. He summarized a number of recommendations made by the governance committee to improve faculty governance, and explained how he relays information to his constituents through a staff member in the Dean’s office.

Faculty Counselor Reports

Faculty Counselors serve on Emory University Board of Trustees committees and bring reports to the Faculty Council. Two Faculty Counselors presented reports on their respective committees. Tamara Caspary reported on attending **Investment Committee** sessions. She outlined the duties and responsibilities of the committee, which include providing several reviews, annual updates, and reports, as well as approvals and resolutions pertaining the University investments. She highlighted the two main issues from this past year, sustainability and long-term vision. Sheryl Heron reported on the **Woodruff Health Sciences Center Board (WHSCB)**. She summarized the three new foci of the new executive director Jon Lewin to be strategic clarity, building effective architecture, and embracing a constructive culture. Heron next highlighted the reviews, annual updates, and reports of the WHSCB. Finally, she listed several upcoming projects of the WHSC.

Emeritus College

Holly York, Emeritus College faculty representative, presented an update on the Emeritus College faculty activities, which fall into four broad categories: creating, learning, teaching and community. She highlighted the recent accomplishments of emeriti faculty, including its leadership position among academic retirement organizations in the US, and recently published books by emeriti authors. She highlighted learning activities, including lunch colloquia, an annual Sheth Distinguished Lecture, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Emory, and three mentoring activities. She announced the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROE), will hold its annual meeting at the Emory Conference Center, October 7-9, 2018.

Faculty Mediation Task Force

Kristy Martyn (School of Nursing), with Elizabeth Goodstein (Emory College of Arts and Sciences), summarized the progress of the Task Force since its charge by the FC in September to evaluate the need for conflict resolution for faculty, explore what happened with the Faculty Peer Mediation Program, and provide a recommendation on how to move forward. In consultation with Provost Zola, the Task Force proposed that Emory initiate an Ombuds program, in alignment with many of our peer institutions in the AAU. According to a communication from Provost Zola, next steps will involve an Ombuds pilot project, starting with identification of a member of Emeritus College to serve as an Ombudsperson, and establishment of an appropriate structure (e.g., private space and phone line to guarantee confidentiality).

Discussion: Distinguishing Personal from the Professional as Members of the Emory Community

Wendland summarized how Senate member Deb Bruner brought this topic up in the University Senate meeting last month. She proposed that the UFC further discuss it, especially given the current political climate in the country. The discussion centered around guidelines for expressing oneself as a person or a representative of Emory, and how to distinguish between them. She underscored guidelines in the “Gray Book” that recommend a faculty member speak as an individual, not for his/her institution. The ensuing discussion centered around explicit statements of Emory affiliation when writing an article on a political issue, and wearing an Emory T-shirt or carrying an Emory banner in a protest. The general consensus, as per Stephen Sencer’s (Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Emory) suggestion in the Senate last month was, “Identifying yourself as a member of Emory is fine, but speaking on behalf of Emory is not.”

For details of the meeting, see the complete [Faculty Council Minutes](#)

