



Emory University Faculty Council minutes

September 17, 2024

3:00 – 5:00 pm EDT

Jones Room, 3rd floor Woodruff Library - in person

Attendees

George	Shepherd
Gregory	Fenves
Ravi	Bellamkonda
Pearl	Dowe
Noell	McAfee
Ashima	Lal
Phillip	Wolff
Michelle	Lampl
Sean	Meighoo
Roberto	Franzosi
Sasha	Volokh
Jehu	Hanciles
Jodie	Guest
Florian	Pohl
Andrew	Sherrill
Lars	Ruthotto
Hashem	Dezhabkhsh
Lisa	Parker
Michael	Martin

Excused Absents

Nitika Gupta, Aryeh Stein, Nichole Powell



Unexcused Absences

Roger	Deal
Kurt	Warncke
Benn	Konsynski
Jessica	Wells
Harold	Simon
Jennifer	Stepal-Wax
Kajal	Patel
Babak	Mahmoudi
Jeffrey	Lichtman
Karen	Sedatole
Usha	Rackliffe
Edjah	Nduom
Salmon	Shomade
Anne Marie	McKenzie-Brown

Summary

The meeting focused on the Faculty Council's role in improving Emory, with President Fenves emphasizing joint faculty governance. Key points included the approval of last year's minutes, President Fenves's commitment to shared governance, and the need for effective communication. The Faculty Council discussed the importance of dedicated faculty space, the challenges of waste management, and the need for a revised open expression policy. A new subcommittee was formed to revise the policy within 60 days. The group also highlighted the need for better communication channels and the importance of active participation in addressing university issues.

Action Items

- [] Draft resolutions calling for reinstatement of leadership email access for Faculty Council, University Senate, President to communicate with all university constituents.
- [] Draft resolution requesting report from outside law firm's investigation into campus events be shared with Faculty Council.
- [] Subcommittee on open expression to gather input from stakeholders and propose policy revisions within 60 days. Regular meetings also scheduled with administration.



Outline

Introduction and Initial Remarks

- George Shepard welcomes everyone and suggests introducing each other due to the small group size.
- George Shepard introduces himself as the chair of the Faculty Council and president of the University Senate.
- Other participants introduce themselves, including Noelle McAfee, the president-elect, and various faculty members from different departments.
- George Shepard outlines the Faculty Council's role in working with the administration to improve Emory.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- George Shepard mentions the consent agenda with one item: approving the minutes from the previous year.
- The minutes are approved after a motion and second, with a correction noted regarding the spelling of "gray book."
- President Fenves is welcomed to speak, and George Shepard praises his commitment to joint faculty governance.

President Fenves' Remarks

- President Fenves thanks the Faculty Council for their service and acknowledges the challenges of being a university president.
- He emphasizes the importance of shared governance and the Faculty Council's role in academic affairs.
- President Fenves discusses the importance of the Faculty Council's recommendations to the President and Provost.
- He highlights the need for ongoing discussions about academic affairs and the promotion and tenure system.

Discussion on Shared Governance and Faculty Council's Role



- President Fenves asks George Shepard about the effectiveness of consultation with the Faculty Council in other institutions.
- George Shepard mentions the lack of a structured system of rules for shared governance at Emory compared to other universities.
- Noelle McAfee discusses the importance of regular meetings and the need for a system of rules to facilitate representation and discussion.
- George Shepard and Noelle McAfee discuss the communication challenges between the Faculty Council, Senate, and administration.

Standing Committee Reports

- Noelle provides an update on the Distinguished Faculty Lecture standing committee, mentioning the need for nominations for the event.
- Michael Martin, chair of the Committee on the Environment, discusses recent meetings with the Office of Sustainability Initiatives and the new sustainability vision for Emory.
- Michael Martin also mentions the need for an external review of the Path proposal for water transportation and the importance of building standards on campus.
- Other standing committee chairs provide brief updates on their activities and goals for the year.

Discussion on Faculty Space and Collaboration

- Ashima Lal, chair of Faculty Life Course provided updates about the need for dedicated space for faculty meetings and dining.
- The group discusses the potential benefits of having such space for academic collaboration and professional development.
- A survey is proposed to gauge faculty interest in dedicated space, with the next steps being to assess the results and make arguments for funding.

Open Expression Policy and Faculty Council Norms

- George Shepard discusses the importance of improving the open expression policy and the application of it.
- A new subcommittee, the Open Expression Subcommittee (OES), is formed to revise the policy within 60 days.
- The group discusses the need for regular mini-reports from standing committees and the importance of active participation in the Faculty Council.



- George Shepard proposes norms for the Faculty Council, including at 2:30 check in time to help start meetings promptly at 3:00 pm ending by 5 PM, and focusing on actionable reports.

Faculty Council's Role and Communication Challenges

- The group discusses the Faculty Council's role in representing faculty concerns and the challenges of communication with the administration.
- George Shepard and other members emphasize the importance of being able to communicate directly with faculty and the need for a resolution to restore this capability.
- The group discusses the historical context of faculty communication and the need for a clear policy on how to address faculty issues.
- The importance of having a voice in university decisions and the impact of shared governance on the university's reputation is highlighted.

Administration's Response and Future Plans

- President Fenves and other administration representatives respond to faculty concerns about open expression and other issues.
- The group discusses the need for a clear policy on how the administration will respond to faculty concerns and the importance of transparency.
- The new subcommittee on open expression is expected to produce a revised policy within 60 days, with input from the administration.
- The group plans to continue discussions and gather more information to improve the open expression policy and other aspects of shared governance.