

University Faculty Council Meeting (held remotely)

April 17, 2023, 3:30pm

Zoom link: <https://pepperdine.zoom.us/j/83808970534>

Attendees: Jay Brewster, Jim Gash, Lee Kats, Chris Doran, Brian McGilvray, Trey Childress, Richard Walton, Maretno Harjoto, Donna Nofziger, Veronica Viesca, Mark Scarberry, Elizabeth Smith, John Mann, and Melissa Wasserman

MEETING MINUTES

1. Opening prayer: Mark opened the meeting with prayer
2. Minutes for February meeting: The chair failed to review or circulate the minutes prepared by the secretary and takes responsibility for the minutes not being available for approval. The February minutes will be circulated along with minutes of this meeting.
 - a. Mark to review minutes and disseminate accordingly
3. The letter from the faculty leaders of the PGBS regarding award of tenure and appointment as full professor of a dean, without substantial faculty involvement: The cover email from Professor DiLellio, Chair of the PGBS Faculty Council, [can be found here](#).
 - a. Concern that faculty voice regarding shared governance was not followed. Faculty feel that they were not a part of that process. Requesting response from the UFC to letter.
 - b. Brings to light how to move forward, both with this issue, and with RTP moving forward within this university
 - c. Inquiring- what is PGBS requesting and asking for in this particular scenario
 - i. From the Personnel Committee- requesting formal response about this particular issue- what is the thought and what is the UFC's stance about the violation of shared governance? Requesting a formal statement about this issue and UFC's stance on the issue.
 - ii. How do we ensure things like this do not happen moving forward? We may not be able to enact change about what has taken place- but PGBS is requesting a response re: what assurances can be shared that someone may not circumvent the RTP process in the future?
 - iii. The PGBS FC-PC letter also indicates that the appointment for the Professor of Strategy at which the PGBS faculty believe that the former dean Deryck van Rensburg does not have qualifications to teach on this discipline.
 - iv. Opportunity to be proactive to make sure this does not happen again in the future

- v. UFC is the body of faculty elected and it should engage in the change in the tenure policy in terms of restricting hiring.
 - d. There were discussions by the President and the Provost during the UFC committee meeting that are considered confidential. All UFC members agreed not to share confidential information discussed during the UFC meeting on this particular issue. Therefore, there is no note taking during these discussions.
 - e. Provost Brewster has invited PGBS faculty to meet one on one with him to discuss their concerns
 - f. Perhaps include action items on how Personnel Committee, RTP Committee and other committees can coordinate and collaborate given the differences in each school's RTP manuals
 - i. How can we integrate shared governance throughout the hiring of new deans
 - 1. And importance of documenting those conversations
 - g. Proposed a joint response letter from the UFC and the Provost and the President and one member of the PGBS faculty who is serving in the UFC with indication of not violating the confidentiality
4. [The proposed revision of the University COVID vaccination policy](#): The email by which the chair conveyed to UFC members Provost Brewster's request for input appears at the end of this agenda. The draft of the revised policy is attached to this email.
- a. As the COVID-19 virus infection has subsided, Pepperdine University is following the county and university health organization guidelines to propose a change in the COVID-19 vaccination policy from mandatory to strongly recommended. If there are any concerns please bring it to the UMC meeting. Strongly recommended is currently proposed and the proposal to change from mandatory to strongly recommend has been sent to all five schools at Pepperdine University.
 - b. Concern was raised during the UFC meeting about stop holding the COVID-19 vaccination clinics on campus.
 - c. Three members out of 8 UFC members indicated a concern that would ask for UMC to postpone the decision on the COVID-19 vaccination policy.
5. Adjournment.
- a. John Mann moved to adjourn the meeting and Elizabeth Smith seconded. All in favor of the meeting to adjourn.