

FACULTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 15, 2022
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre

MINUTES

Councilors Present: D. Anderson, A. Brian, R. Curto, L. Durairaj, N. Greyser, J. Gutierrez, B. Janssen, L. Joseph, T. Mangum, M. McQuistan, J. Sa-Aadu, M. Santillan, A. Shibli-Rahhal, E. Welder.

Officers Present: E. Gillan, T. Marshall, A. Rodríguez-Rodríguez, C. Sheerin.

Councilors Excused: J. Achrazoglou, N. Brogden.

Councilors Absent: E. Hill.

Guests: J. Anthony (Sustainability Charter Committee), M. Biger (Sustainability Charter Committee), A. Estapa (College of Education), M. Gardinier (Emeritus Faculty Council), L. Geist (Office of the Provost), E. Nyberg (*Daily Iowan*), F. Toor (Research Council), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office).

I. Call to Order – President Rodríguez-Rodríguez called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – President Rodríguez-Rodríguez noted that the committee appointment section of the agenda had been revised slightly after the agenda was sent out last week. Professor Anderson moved and Professor Mangum seconded that the revised agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Faculty Council Minutes (October 11, 2022) – Professor Shibli-Rahhal moved and Professor Janssen seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda (December 6, 2022) – Professor Shibli-Rahhal moved and Professor Janssen seconded that the draft agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Committee Appointments (Ed Gillan, Chair, Committee on Committees) – Professor Janssen moved and Professor Anderson seconded that the committee appointments be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
 - Daniel McGehee (Industrial & Systems Engineering) to fill a vacancy on the Faculty Senate, 2022-23
 - Craig Just (Civil & Environmental Engineering) to fill a vacancy on the Faculty Senate, 2022-23
 - Kevin Krause (Management & Entrepreneurship) to replace David Wittenberg (English) on the Parking & Transportation Committee, Spring 2023

- E. Faculty Senate Elections 2023 Vacancy Tally – President Rodríguez-Rodríguez explained that Faculty Senate approval of the vacancy tally is necessary before we can move ahead with our election process in the spring semester. Professor Santillan moved and Professor Mangum seconded that the vacancy tally be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

III. New Business

- *Charter Committee Updates (Fatima Toor, Chair, Research Council and Jerry Anthony and Matthieu Biger, Co-chairs, Sustainability Charter Committee)*

President Rodríguez-Rodríguez explained that, once again, charter committee chairs had been invited to the Faculty Council meeting so that Councilors could hear about their recent activities and their priorities this year. These invitations also offer an opportunity for Councilors to engage in dialog with chairs of charter committees, which are a university-wide branch of shared governance. Last month, chairs of the Charter Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and of the Family Issues Charter Committee had been invited. Today, Councilors would hear from chairs of the Research Council and the Sustainability Charter Committee.

Professor Toor indicated that she was appointed chair of the [Research Council](#) over the summer. She briefly reviewed the committee's [charge](#) and [membership](#). There are ten appointed faculty members of the committee, but these faculty members represent only five of the colleges, Professor Toor noted. After conversations with Vice President for Research Scholtz and his staff, the committee is planning to submit a request for permission to increase Research Council faculty membership to fifteen, so that all of the colleges can be represented. This would also increase the Research Council's visibility across campus. Professor Toor added that she sent out a survey to committee members asking about their interests and their motivation in joining the committee. Most respondents indicated that they wanted to make an impact on the university's research enterprise. The survey also asked for examples of the Research Council's positive impact in prior terms. Responses to this question included involvement in policy formation, such as the policy regarding minors involved in university research. However, many committee members indicated uncertainty about the Research Council's impact and a lack of clarity about its expected role within the research enterprise. A final survey question asked about areas in which the Research Council could improve. Committee members responded with various suggestions, such as increasing the visibility and awareness of the Research Council, increasing engagement with administrative research leaders across campus, improving communication, and meeting on a regular basis around clearly-defined goals.

A second survey was sent to Research Council members asking about proposed short-term (next 12 months) and long-term (greater than 12 months) goals, Professor Toor continued. The establishment of more frequent contact with both the Faculty Senate and the Associate Deans for Research was identified as an outreach short-term goal. The committee members also wanted to update their charge and communicate that update across campus. Vice President Scholtz has requested that the committee provide support for the [research and discovery priorities](#) of the UI Strategic Plan. As part of this effort, the Research Council may hold public forums with the goal of identifying the university's key areas of distinction in research. Engagement with research leaders and administrators will be a component of the forums. As for

long-term goals, committee members would like to establish relationships with the research councils of our peer institutions. Professor Toor has already been reaching out to counterparts at some of the Big Ten institutions. Research Council members would also like to assist in the establishment of alumni support lines for research, as well as to become a strong sounding board for the Office of the Vice President for Research as the Office pursues goals and initiatives.

President Rodríguez-Rodríguez praised Professor Toor's commitment to the Research Council and indicated that she also looked forward to greater interaction between the Faculty Senate and the Research Council. Vice President Gillan, who had served as Research Council chair some years ago, commented that previously the committee met on a regular basis and was deeply involved in policy work and in advising the Office of the Vice President for Research. The recent transitions in the Office, as well as the pandemic, appear to have sidelined the committee in recent years, but he was glad to see that Professor Toor was getting the committee back on track. Professor Toor added that Vice President Scholtz has been very supportive of her efforts. Vice President Gillan wondered about the existence of collegiate research advisory bodies. Councilors spoke in favor of establishing connections between these advisory groups, which exist in some colleges, and the Research Council. Professor Mangum suggested that more careful selection of the members of the Research Council would lead to a wider collegiate representation. Professor Toor commented that an increase in the faculty membership number would still be beneficial. The committee intends to pursue the process for making this modification to the Operations Manual. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez urged that research in the humanities not be overlooked by the Research Council in favor of research in the sciences.

Mr. Biger indicated that he has served as staff co-chair of the Sustainability Charter Committee for several years. Professor Anthony, newly-appointed as the faculty co-chair, was also in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Biger thanked the Faculty Senate for [passing](#) the Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019, on the recommendation of the Sustainability Charter Committee. He also thanked the Senate for their support in [passing](#) a resolution regarding the investment activities of TIAA in Brazil. He added that members of the committee now meet annually with representatives from TIAA to express their concerns; these meetings are hosted by University Human Resources.

After reviewing the committee's [charge](#) and [membership](#), Mr. Biger turned to describing the committee's accomplishments in the 2021-22 academic year. The committee often works with the [Office of Sustainability and the Environment](#) (OSE) on initiatives, he explained. One of the accomplishments that he highlighted was the committee's assistance in having the university designated as a [Bee Campus](#). The committee was also instrumental in the development of [Ashton Prairie](#) as a living laboratory. The committee continues to work with OSE and the UI Office of Strategic Communications (OSC) on tracking progress that the university makes towards achievement of its [2030 sustainability goals](#). And, the committee successfully advocated for sustainability to be embedded, for the first time, in the university's strategic plan, as part of the priority of [transformative societal impact](#).

The committee has developed a full list of goals for the 2022-23 academic year, Mr. Biger continued. As part of the progress toward the 2030 sustainability goals, the committee will

coordinate with OSE and OSC to formalize working groups to focus on various aspects of the goals, such as water quality and zero waste. Mr. Biger invited Councilors to apply for membership on the working groups. Committee members will also strive to foreground the sustainability goals in the UI strategic plan and to advocate for integrating sustainability goals into the university's contracting and bidding process. Vice President Gillan noted that the Research Council has an administrative home in the Office of the Vice President for Research. He asked where the Sustainability Charter Committee's administrative home was. Mr. Biger responded that the OSE is the committee's home, but that the OSE has been under the umbrella of several different offices over the years. It was first housed in Facilities Management, then in the Office of the Provost, and now in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a move which may now slightly constrain the OSE's reach. The committee retains an administrative liaison from Facilities Management, in addition to the liaison from OSE.

Professor Mangum thanked the committee members for their work on this very important topic. She expressed the hope that the Council and Senate would offer full support for the activities of the committee. Mr. Biger commented that consistency can be a problem for committees for which members are constantly rotating off and on. Hiring staff support for the committee would help with continuity. Professor Mangum noted that students feel passionately about sustainability. She wondered about the extent to which we are integrating sustainability goals academically and programmatically. Mr. Biger reminded the group that there is now a general education core requirement in sustainability. Professor Gutierrez asked if the committee has formed any collaboration with the hospital, a large producer of waste on campus. Mr. Biger noted that a hospital administrator typically attends the committee's meetings. The university participates in a green hospital initiative, he added.

- *Instructional Faculty Track Review Committee Report – Discussion of Recommendations (Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez)*

President Rodríguez-Rodríguez invited the group to return to the [discussion](#), begun at the last Council meeting, of the recommendations proposed in the instructional faculty track review committee [report](#). The Council had primarily discussed the recommendations related to the composition of Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate committees, and university committees. Senate representation is capped at 20% of the collegiate delegation for clinical-track faculty and 10% for research-track faculty and instructional-track faculty, or one senator, whichever is greater. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez displayed a list of some of the various points made by Councilors throughout last month's discussion. These points related to concerns that faculty on the non-tenure tracks would fear speaking out (improvements to the grievance procedures may reduce these fears), that faculty on one track could not fully understand the challenges of faculty on other tracks, that changes to ITF representation should not be considered alone but together with changes to representation from the other non-tenure tracks, and that instructional-track faculty (ITF) would find Senate service burdensome.

Councilors also reviewed a chart showing the numbers of faculty in each track in each college (this data was from the 2021-22 academic year), along with the numbers of faculty in each track currently serving in Senate collegiate delegations. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez observed that, for example, while ITF make up 26% of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty, they

make up only 10% of the college's Senate delegation. For the Tippie College of Business, the corresponding percentages are 42% and 25%.

Secretary Sheerin, who had co-chaired the instructional faculty track review committee, indicated that the Senate officers were looking for specific guidance from the Council for modifying the cap structure currently in place in the Senate. The officers would then convey this guidance to the Senate's Committee on Rules and Bylaws, the committee charged with revising the Senate's constitution and bylaws. Secretary Sheerin suggested some options for changes to the cap structure. For example, each collegiate delegation could have percentages of faculty tracks that reflect those tracks' percentages among the collegiate faculty. Or, the caps could simply be eliminated. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez commented that another option could be to increase the size of the Senate and thereby allow for greater numbers of non-tenure-track faculty to be elected.

Professor Curto observed that the caps serve to restrict the candidates that voters can elect. She expressed the opinion that candidate choice should be left up to the voters and therefore the caps should be eliminated. Voters can decide for themselves whether a tenured faculty member or an ITF could better represent them. Professor Gutierrez expressed concern that only faculty members with flexible schedules would end up serving on Senate. Clinical-track faculty, for example, with set clinic hours, may find it difficult to serve. She added that it is important to ensure representation from all tracks. Professor Santillan echoed this concern and advocated for faculty members on all tracks to have seats on the Senate. Past President Marshall clarified that representation is divided by tracks; there is no further breakdown in the health sciences colleges according to type of degree. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez commented that it is often clinical-track faculty who show greater interest than tenure-track faculty in serving on Senate in the health science colleges. Professor Shibli-Rahhal observed that, while 62% of the Carver College of Medicine faculty are on the clinical track, only 19% of the college's delegation are on the clinical track. She advocated for changing the cap structure to reflect the collegiate track percentages. Professor Santillan pointed out that most of the Medicine Councilors were on the clinical track. Vice President Gillan explained that the caps apply only at the Senate level, not at the Council level.

Vice President Gillan further noted that the percentage caps primarily apply to the large colleges (Medicine and Liberal Arts and Sciences), while the small colleges are capped at one senator from each of the non-tenure tracks. He reiterated that these restrictions are caps, not floors. Faculty in the non-tenure tracks are not guaranteed seats on the Senate. He added that collegiate delegation size can fluctuate over the years, depending on the number of faculty in a college. On this year's vacancy tally, for example, Medicine has gained a seat and Liberal Arts and Sciences has lost a seat, as the faculty numbers in those colleges have changed. Professor Brian commented that, if the total number of faculty members continues to rise, perhaps we should increase the size of the Senate, as well.

Professor Janssen stated that, while the issue of whether to retain the cap structure is important, it is essential that the Senate communicate to faculty the value of shared governance. This would lead to greater Senate participation by faculty on all four tracks. Professor

McQuistan suggested that the use of floors, rather than caps, might contribute to this goal. Having to fill seats for all types of faculty could pressure colleges into making faculty members' time available for shared governance participation. As the discussion concluded, Secretary Sheerin asked if there was a consensus that some type of change to the cap structure was needed. Councilors indicated that yes, change was needed. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez explained that this issue would now come before the Committee on Rules and Bylaws, but that she would summarize today's discussion for the Senate.

- *President's Report (Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez)*

President Rodríguez-Rodríguez indicated that there has been a temporary suspension of the search for the new Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Carver College of Medicine. There are plans to resume a national search in the near future. Meanwhile, current Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Carver College of Medicine Brooks Jackson will continue serving in this role until a successor is hired.

- *Executive Session: Policy Update (Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez)*

Professor Brian moved and Professor Shibli-Rahhal seconded that the Faculty Council move into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Senate officers updated Councilors on policy issues.

Professor Santillan moved and Professor Welder seconded that the Faculty Council move out of executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. From the Floor – There were no items from the floor.

V. Announcements

- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, 3:30-5:15 pm, Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Mangum moved and Professor Shibli-Rahhal seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Rodríguez-Rodríguez adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.