

Faculty Senate Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 3:30pm

Where: Zoom @ <https://fit.zoom.us/j/95744544218>

Minutes

Senators Present: Faculty Senate President Tolga Turgut (Aeronautics), Faculty Senate Secretary Aaron Welters (MTH), Ersoy Subasi (Aeronautics), Jordan Poole (Aeronautics), Charles Bryant (Business), Abram Walton (COB), Angel Otero (Business Online), Don Platt (APSS), Razvan Rusovici (APSS), Manasvi Lingam (APSS), Csaba Palotai (APSS), Kenia Nunes (BCES), Mehmet Kaya (BCES), Vipuil Kishore (BCES), Brian Lail (CES), Nasheen Nur (CES), Nakin Suksawang (MCE), Hamidreza Najafi (MCE), Joo Young Park (MTH), Nezamodini-Kachouie (MTH), Pallav Ray (OEMS), Spencer Fire (OEMS), Kevin Burke (SAC), Angela Tenga (SAC), David Wilder (BA), Patrick Converse (PSY), Jessica Wildman (PSY), Julie Costopoulos (PSY),

(Pres. Turgut yields the floor to Provost Carvalho)

will engage to provide me with a revised survey that will then be voted and implemented, which the faculty is comfortable with and support. This hasn't happened yet, I never received a new survey.

institutions having around 12), if we want to get this more extradited, could we have your team/office provide some survey, that we could even purchase, that we can then vet on and just tailor to our needs?

Provost Carvalho responds that we'll be happy to do it and to engage the faculty from some initial survey that we can help build with professional help.

Provost Carvalho gives an additional comment that he wants us to be careful with those change to the survey, we should be comfortable that we're making a change that will last for some time. The reason for that is because of the data that you're collecting, if you're not retaining that continuity, then you're losing.

Pres. Turgut asks the following question from the private zoom chat: Don't we need to discuss the purpose and way we use the surveys and arrive at a definitive agreement first, before we discuss how we change the surveys?

Provost Carvalho responds that's a very insightful question, because sometimes one of the things that people I

Award for Excellence. He has been contacting them to check the eligibility. In

Reminder about to the department and colleges about Senator elections:

This has been in discussion since our December 6, 2022 meeting. Current policy as defined in our Bylaws, Article 1 and Section 1 states: "The members of the faculty, voting by academic unit for their individual representatives, shall elect members of the Faculty Senate for a three-year term". Furthermore, Standing Committee chairs are elected for 2-year terms and Senate officers (Senate President and Secretary) are elected for 1-

directly communicating with the Faculty Senate President and the Secretary. If anybody would go back to reading the minutes going back to 2011, as he has done, you can easily understand the bottleneck created in the Senate floor. In the last 11-12 years we have had three Senators becoming Senate Presidents, two terms. One Senator served as both the Senate President and the AFTC Chair at the same time. Some unopposed elections. The other Senators who served as President in the last 10-11 years only once are mostly no longer faculty at FIT. I strongly believe that if these few faculty did not leave, then they would also have run again and again, probably. So let's be more inclusive and provide more equity of opportunity to more of the faculty, and serve in this great representative body of our faculty Senate.

(Pres. Turgut opens the floor for questions before proceeding with the resolution voting)

Senator Brian Lail suggests there be an opportunity for some further discussion to make sure varying viewpoints are heard before moving to a vote.

that. If the faculty are having trouble getting into Senate, it seems to me that's a departmental issue. If elections are not being held on time or not being held by secret ballot, go to your department head, go to your Dean, come to the Senate. I don't think that the Senate has ever made a practice of supervising Senate elections, but it could. As far as term limits themselves, he doesn't believe term limits for Senators are in the best interest either of the Senate or more importantly of the faculty.

Pres. Turgut asks for any opposing views from those just given.

Senator Abram Walton

Pres. Turgut says thank you, its appreciate, and it is noted.

Senator Lail says he supports all the comments from both Dr. Brown and Dr. Walton, in particular. I think the challenge with this one, at least, is that there's not a one size fits all solution due to the nature of the different sizes and varieties of our different academic units. And to not fully appreciate that, and make a change like this, in fact,

having a little bit of both sides, not just new ideas, new fresh faces, but also people that have been in for a long time in Senate. You can learn a lot from them, so I'm just saying, as a sort of an opposing view.

Pres. Turgut says he would like to share with you his screen on the resolution so that it goes into the minutes as well. This is the resolution on the floor and the current state. Basically this is the reflection of the concise PowerPoint that I shared with everybody. By the way, we have been discussing on this for the last three months. This is not a last minute resolution that is put on the floor. It can pass or it cannot pass. That's okay. And that's what we are discussing on for three months. He reads it: Whereas Faculty Handbook 1.4, Bylaws Article II, and

discussed. So yes we did talk about term limits. In fact, what is on the resolution he thinks is inappropriate to even have a vote on that. But if you say we should vote on whether we should even have a term limit that is a different mode. You want us to vote on this resolution when we just saw it today. We did see the PowerPoint last time, but t

Pres. Turgut replies let's make a word correction, not scared, but hesitant.

Senator Palotai replies, is there any evidence they are hesitant?

Pres. Turgut replies: Yes, there are, because people are now leaving in general. And that is the usual concern among all the universities. That's why the healthy mixture is a balance of the experience, and also new faculty joining the ranks. You are aware that we have a one-third turnover of faculty in the last few years. So one-third of the faculty are new in the last three years. This is related to the problem.

Senator Kishore says I agree with Senator Palotai that to the contrary in my program, every time that a Senator completes the three year term the email goes out. And if someone's interested, they say their name, and there's no hesitancy whatsoever. I'm not sure what the hesitancy would be to put your name in the hat.

Al Brown says that it is just a point of information and no vote would be to not move forward with the discussion of term limits. Correct?

Senator Lail says yes, let's make sure this is framed correctly. It's voting on whether we bother to take this further back to our constituents, and actually give everyone a time to review this resolution anymore. Do we proceed? Yes, we proceed to entertain the resolution to (Pres. Turgut jumps in)

Pres. Turgut says just a second.

Pres. Turgut says thank you. At this point. I am not a believer of the sense of the Senate on a prepared resolution which has been discussed for three months. However, I am willing to extend it. I am not putting it for a motion to go on a vote on this. That's where we should leave it at. Then go back and then revisit it to your own research, if you like, about other institutions as well. There has been many changes in the last 10-12 years in this institution and in higher education. So this is just the new reflection of this.

Senator Suksawang says see the problem is not this it's that (Pres. Turgut jumps in)

Pres. Turgut says I'm sorry I did not open the floor for discussion. I am stopping it as the presiding officer. I can do that. I am not voting on anything.

Senator Suksawang says but you are going to ask us to vote next time and I'm curious about next week if we're going to have this again? Voting on the resolution as is? But we already made so many suggestions to you yet you say we are voting on the same resolution. What is the point of that?

Pres. Turgut says there wasn't much suggestions other than the one he heard from the Senator from the Library to make an amendment.

Senator Suksawang says a few other things were talked about such as the term limits. They talked about it was difficult logistically.

Pres. Turgut says we have to stop you there. I will send out information in advance on this.

New Business

President Turgut brings up the following piece of new business.

Faculty Standing Committee Chair elections: Call for nominations for Chair Faculty Excellence Awards Committee, Chair of Academic Policies Committee, and Chair TRI (Technology Resources and Infrastructure) Committee.

This is a call for nominations for Chair for faculty excellence awards which is up for renewal and Senator Julie Costopoulos is welcome to run again. Also this is a call for nominations for the Chair of Academic Policies Committee and Senator Vipuil Kishore is welcome to run again, and I know that he has applied. We also have a vacant Standing Committee which is the Technology, Resources, and Infrastructure (TRI) Committee. We will do these elections in the April meeting. Finally, the Senate officers elections for President and Secretary, this is an open call for nominations, and they are elected for one year.

The nominations should all be emailed to Pres. Turgut and they will stay open until the previous day of the April 4, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting. We would like to have vision statements like the last couple of years as a tradition.

Tolga Turgut asks for a motion to adjourn.

Senator Julie Costopoulos responds. Motion to adjourn.

Senator William Bowman responds. I second the motion.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.

Respectively submitted,

Aaron Welters, Faculty Senate Secretary