

Agenda
Lecturers and Educators Congress
March 31, 2021
4:30-5:30PM - WebEx

Present: Kyle Riismandel (President), Maria Stanko (Vice President), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Jose Alcala (HCAD), Caroline Devan (CSLA), Jon Curley (CSLA), John Esche (CSLA), Risa Gorelick (CSLA), Geraldine Milano (NCE), Tom Ogorzalek (HCAD), Jaskirat Sodhi (NCE), Ryan Tolboom (YWCCS), Katherine Tyrol (CSLA), Diana Walsh (MTSM), Louis Wells (CSLA)

I. President's Report

- a. Move to revive Faculty Senate Committee on Instructional Staff
- b. Discussions in Faculty Senate about consistency in structure within the Schools.
- c. John Esche will represent the LEC on the Presidential Search Committee
- d. Maria reported on vaccine distribution – site on campus initiated by FEMA. The most effective way to get an appointment is to call the state scheduling phone number. NJIT employees are prioritized as long as they get through to speak to a person. Maria would like to notify LEC constituents via email; we will also post it to Canvas.

II. Changes to LEC Constitution – Caroline and Jaskirat

When working on elections Caroline and Jaskirat looked at the numbers for representation and to make sure that it reflected the departments as they are now; also to increase adjunct representation, to make it clearer who was a voting member and not, and to make sure the Executive Board is included in the voting membership.

The entire Executive Board is from CSLA. We've just had elections and no objections, but should think about diversifying for the future. Issue of recruiting from across the university – Caroline says all the slots for the departments are full, and there will be much broader representation in the fall. CSLA is strongly represented because people know people, but as more representation comes from across the university, this should right itself. New people will tell us how we reached them or didn't, and what we can do better. We should continue to fill in committee membership with

people who aren't voting reps, because it involves more people. (Kate and Jon are committee reps, for example.)

There are now 5 slots for Adjunct Reps. We have so much adjunct interest that we may have to hold an election – many of them from NCE. YWCC is underrepresented, but the number of seats was miscalculated, which will be corrected

Jaskirat suggested holding a workshop on how to apply for Senior Lecturer. Other similar workshops will be helpful, not only to our membership, but to get new people involved.

Question about whether Senior Lecturers get named separately in the constitution, or is University Lecturers a catch-all?

The Board approved the changes; they will be submitted to our constituency for approval.

III. Committee Reports

a. Pandemic Recovery Subcommittee on Instruction:

Jaskirat: discussion of generating an informal plan, staff will be 50% back on campus by May, and 100% back by August 1st.

3 hour lecture block – requests from 2 colleges to retain them during the day which were granted. Tom reported that HCAD's dean denied the requests; HCAD classes involve site visits so this is problematic. John E pointed out that this will also result in field trips running into other classes times unofficially, which is also problematic.

Commencement exercises are happening in smaller groups and with no guests allowed, including parents.

Back2Classroom is going away – it was unpopular with instructors and with students.

For the remainder of this semester, teaching converged on campus must still wear a mask, even if vaccinated.

Rutgers is making vaccination mandatory for students to come onto campus. Exceptions only religious and medical. Will they have a virtual setting for students who aren't vaccinated? For faculty and staff, strong encouragement, but not required.

b. Pandemic Recovery Subcommittee on Info Systems

Ryan: has not met.

- c. *Faculty Senate*: covered in President's report.
- d. *Facilities*: Scott: they've finished demolishing the old Mueller building, will be leveling the site next.
- e. *Finance*:
Ryan volunteered to be the new representative.
- f. *University Senate*: Nothing
- g. *TLT*: Kate – semi-final draft of policy on recording of classes as pertains to student privacy.
- h. *Campus Life*: Louis – met the new Director of Campus Health. Asked about whether NJIT is going to implement a vaccine requirement like Rutgers – she did not yet know.
- i. *HR*: No
- j. *CFRR*: covered above.
- k. *Elections*: covered in II. Above
- l. *PSA*: John and Caroline are on the negotiating committee.
Increases: They are making certain that whatever increase is implemented goes to the Lecturers as well as Faculty. John has been pushing for recognition of the service and research that is already being done by Lecturers; he has a sense there is sympathy towards this position. However, it's important to balance acknowledging service without penalizing Lecturers who are all-teaching so that they don't forfeit merit pay.
HCAD: trying to set up a smaller meeting focused on their course load and other issues. HCAD Lecturers are just looking for equity; the current language is over 20 years old and based in an older system.
John says there will be pressure to get the contract wrapped up by September. All of the negotiation has been about algorithms regarding merit; John believes that it will benefit Lecturers. Devolve the power to the departments and the people within them.

Caroline and John recommend Lecturers to run as representatives, both departmental and at large.

Caroline says there has a committee been formed to look at equity – race, class, gender. Issues within ranks, and what's standing in the way between ranks.

IV. New Business

TAC – departmental teaching load – being determined on a departmental basis. Professors of Practice may or may not have the same requirements as ULs. They are being paid more than ULs; it is unclear what their teaching expectations are.

Tom pointed out that in HCAD, most Lecturers have and are expected to have an architectural practice. The new requirements for teaching are interfering with this.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28.

The meeting ended at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Siemann
Executive Secretary