

Minutes

Lecturers and Educators Congress

Oct. 25, 2023

4:00-5:30 PM – Fenster 590 or [via Zoom](#)

Present: Maria Stanko (President), Jaskirat Sodhi (VP), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Risa Gorelick, Gerry Milano, Dipesh Patel, Matt Riegel, Matt Toegel, John Yarotsky

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm.

I. President's Report - Maria Stanko

- a. Faculty Fellows applications – Honors College program, due 10/31.
- b. Strategic Planning town hall Friday, October 27th at 11:30 AM in the Agile Strategy Lab in the Central King Building [Submit advance feedback](#) – 2030 Strategic Plan

II. Committee Reports

- a. *Faculty Senate - Jaskirat Sodhi / Maria Stanko* - met on 10/24. Presentation by CFO Cathy Brennan about the new budget model. 1/3 of the way through the process of transitioning the way budgeting is done throughout the university. Shifting away from top down, moved to the individual units.

Egypt campus – still moving cautiously forward but aware of the current situation.

Motion from Research Committee – proposing a Research Development Fund of \$1000/annually for those who don't have other funds. Would currently not include us. Motion to get a cash equivalent for the computers we are issued was voted down.

Sustainability Officer and DEIB Officer presented. The university has signed onto a carbon commitment of zero net emissions by 2040.

- b. *CFRR – Gerry Milano*. So many issues they are meeting every Friday. Dan Bunker and Alison Lefkowitz were at the 10/13 meeting; tasked to look at HCAD Dean search. University Lecturer issue – the Faculty are now further away from agreeing to it; two new members of CFRR – one is very negative. P&T committee – 2 tiered approach: a junior committee for assistant professors to associate, a senior committee for associate professors to full. Should there be a P process for ULs to SULs? The process will be more rigid. Section 3.2.2 of the Faculty Handbook on Department Bylaws – should we consider the default bylaws the floor or the ceiling? If they can customize can they add to it or remove? Would the right for ULs to vote be removed? Gerry is advocating for the bylaws as a baseline that you can add to but not remove from.
Gerry requests that ULs speak up in department meetings; let the faculty know who you are, your credentials, what you do. Gerry was thanked for her advocacy.
- c. *University Senate - Scott Kent* – 1st meeting last week. Numbers of undergraduates are up. We're getting shrinkage from international graduate students, who get their visas and go to for-profit universities again. Very little discussion.
- d. *UCAN- Scott Kent* – University lawyers are refusing to make a counteroffer; level of raise is significantly lower than Rutgers. Strike vote among the members was overwhelmingly for authorizing a strike if necessary.
- e. *TLT - Maria Stanko* – Talked about strategic planning; heard from Dan White in Online Programs about creating more continuing education programs for training for people in industry. New Digital Security Officer.

VI. New business

Risa Gorelick – a group of Jewish faculty has coalesced who are concerned about potential escalation of anti-semitism or other hatred in the current climate. There have been posters around campus which are inflammatory. Please document and contact Public Safety.

At our November meeting, November 29, the Provost will be there towards the beginning of the meeting. Please come in person rather than online, and you are welcome to invite others.

The meeting was concluded at 5:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Siemann

Secretary