

Minutes

Lecturers and Educators Congress

Feb. 28, 2024

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

Present: Maria Stanko (President), Jaskirat Sodhi (VP), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Scott Kent (Treasurer), John Esche, David Fisher, Risa Gorelick, Ken Horwitz, Mary Konsolaki, Gerry Milano, Dipesh Patel, Rafeeza Shahabudeen, Matt Toegel, Ryan Tolboom, Chris Zeiner,

I. President's Report - Maria Stanko

- a. Best Places to Work survey focus group - volunteers wanted! 3-4 1-hr sessions – for people who are interested in being part of it, tell Maria.
- b. Lecturer rep (non-CSLA) for Women's Faculty Advisory Council
- c. CWL/WL+ERG Fundraiser Breakfast 3/6 9am

II. Committee Reports

- a. Faculty Senate - Jaskirat Sodhi / Maria Stanko

Faculty Senate is looking for new leadership for next year. At the Institute Faculty Meeting the proposal to have Associate Professors on university P&T committees was voted down (having previously been approved by Faculty Senate). Possibility of alternative proposal to have Associates on P&T for promotion to Associate, but only Full to Full.

- b. CFRR - Gerry Milano

Talked about the CFRR proposal for P&T. After the Faculty Senate meeting, they are again proposing that Associate Professors be on P&T committees, but wording it differently.

Possibility of Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs – CFRR doesn't think this is necessary.

Eligibility to serve as Department Chair and to vote for Department Chair – will be addressed this coming Friday.

Investigating modalities of course delivery – don't want to eliminate hybrid courses. Looking at pre-pandemic and post-pandemic numbers.

c. TLT - Maria Stanko

Security breaches: University has experienced serious security breaches and near-breaches in the last several weeks. The university is scrambling to put in additional protections rapidly – sometimes links in emails may be blocked even when they shouldn't be. Be extra cautious.

New tools: Poll Everywhere (can be accessed through Canvas), migration of older videos from Kaltura to Panopto is underway and they are updating the links in old Canvas courses so if you want to copy links on old classes – being done over spring break & summer. Webex will be sunset in favor of Zoom probably by the fall. If you use Canvas to integrate with Zoom, it will automatically generate a Canvas email to all of your students. Default setting to automatically publish the recordings and email the students that they're available.

d. Faculty Senate IST Committee – Mary Konsolaki

March 27th at 10am, Mary cannot attend. Ryan is on it and will attend.

e. Campus Wellness Strategic Committee -- Rafeeza Shahabudeen

Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free Campus Policy. By 9/1/25. This includes not only smoking but vaping or e-cigarettes, and marijuana as well as tobacco. Enforcement is still being discussed.

f. UCAN – Scott Kent

Adjuncts are getting their retro pay, to fall of 2022, in their next paycheck.

III. Teaching Track Faculty proposal update - Jaskirat Sodhi / Maria Stanko

A smaller committee was formed with Maria and Jaskirat (LEC), Ahmit and Nellone (PSA), Dan Bunker and Piero Armante (FS) & Provost John Pelesko.

Discussions: having 3 separate categories of instructional people: (1) Tenure Track faculty, (2) Teaching Track faculty (for people who do primarily teaching, possibly a research requirement, service, some similar rights and responsibilities), (3) ULs & SULs – partly to retain positions for people who don't want the additional rights and responsibilities and for people without terminal degrees.

About 40% of all ULs/SULs do not have terminal degrees. Possibility of MFAs, Masters in Architecture or Design, MBAs being considered terminal. JDs? Architects, Engineers with licenses but not terminal degrees, Writing Instructors with MFAs. Ryan: If NJIT wants to get involved in private partnerships, they will need to bridge the gap with folks who chose private industry ahead of advanced academic degrees. What about certifications etc.?

Voting rights: on curricular matters, for chair; not to be chair (Tenured faculty are protected if they take positions against the administration)

Being considered part of the Faculty

If we retain ULs, creating a position above SUL, so there are three tracks as well.

Attempt to get it voted on for the last Institute Faculty Meeting in April – probably 50/50 as to April or Fall. Communicate to your Faculty Senator how you hope they will vote.

We make it possible for TT Faculty to devote more attention to research; it is good for the students to have teachers who are well-supported in their positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Siemann