

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate
10 September 2015

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by Chair, Beverly Gage
Presiding: Beverly Gage (Chair)

In attendance:

David Bercovici, Jill Campbell, John Geanakoplos, Shiri Goren, Emily Greenwood, Matthew Jacobson, Ruth Koizim, Christina Kraus, Yair Minsky, Mark Mooseker, William Rankin, Douglas Rogers, Ian Shapiro, Katie Trumpener, Vesla Weaver, Karen Wynn

Viewing via video:

John Harris, Katie Lofton, Reina Maruyama

Not Present:

Charles Schmuttenmaer

The Chair welcomed all to the inaugural meeting of the Yale FAS Senate. She gave an update on what has transpired over the summer, including the activities of the Executive Council. She noted that the first meeting should involve introductions around the table and open discussion. She expressed that it would be valuable to get an idea of the direction the Senate members see the Senate going and the role they envision for it.

The Chair reviewed activities of the Executive Council, which met a number of times over the summer. Executive Council members are David Bercovici, Beverly Gage, Emily Greenwood, Mark Mooseker, Bill Nordhaus, and Vesla Weaver. They had several meetings with upper level administration to find out what they are thinking of the role of the Senate and its relationship with the administration. Members of the EC met with Peter Salovey (President), Benjamin Polak (Provost), Tamar Gendler (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences), Jonathan Holloway (Dean of Yale College), and Stephanie Spangler (Deputy Provost for Health Affairs and Academic Integrity), among others. Three points were elaborated:

1. The Executive Council got from administration representatives a good sense of enthusiasm and curiosity about working with the Senate as well as willingness on their part to do so.
2. Resource details were worked out to allow the Senate to function. The budget is \$35,000, which includes operating expenses; web development to build a robust FASS site; and funds for a conference (most likely in the spring of 2016); and other smaller items. The EC also asked for a part time staff person for a 15 hour per week position, which has been approved but the Senate has not yet hired person to fill it.
3. The EC requested support for the chair in the form of course relief. It was determined that the administration will treat the Senate chair equivalent to the chair of a department.

The Chair discussed the committee structure, pointing out that several committees are in the Senate bylaws as passed by the Faculty (Committee on Committees, Nominating Committee, Committee on Elections, By-laws Committee).

The Chair suggested that the first order of business should be to do a round of introductions and for each Senator to propose ideas about the Senate's direction as well as topics members would like to see addressed. Comments from the FASS members took the form of suggestions about the role of the Senate, questions to address, and general comments.

Among the issues that were raised by Senators were the following: The Senate should:

- Be a point of contact between the administration and the broader FAS faculty.
- Be the voice of FAS faculty, raising issues on campus that are not being raised.
- Retake the mission and the spirit of pedagogy and research.
- Have a real mandate not just rooted in the faculty, but in the best traditions of higher education.
- Establish trust between the Senate and faculty colleagues.
- Become a body that can deliberate about major administrative decisions that have significant effect on the lives of FAS faculty.
- Make excellence of FAS central to the university.
- Look at the question of departmental autonomy.
- Talk about changing structures and career arcs, collaboration, new forms of publications, reviewing FASTAP, setting up Yale as a place that encourages new forms of scholarship.
- Support families and quality of life.
- Create a body that will be representative and not just responsive.
- Provide more robust faculty input on the university budget and related financial issues.
- Ensure that Yale acts as a responsible and active citizen within the city of New Haven.
- Encourage and model best practices in faculty diversity.

Questions brought up included:

- How can Yale become more transparent and develop a structure in which faculty play a significant role in university decision-making?
- How can Yale work better to meet the challenges young families face?
- Why has the administration lost its focus on the excellence of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences? Have they stopped helping faculty be good teachers and researchers?
- Has Yale lost intellectual capital? What can be done to build it up again?

There followed discussion on committees. The FASS is a body of 22 people. Everyone would be on one committee although some members may be on multiple committees. Executive Council members will generally chair committees. Elections and Nominations was a combined committee but will not require much time and energy at the moment. The Committee on Yale Committees is a crucial committee to make sure that important standing committees and ad hoc committees in the university are staffed by faculty with a broad institutional view. With regard to the Bylaws Committee, the executive committee thought that this could be included in its mandate.

There followed discussion about possible Ad hoc committees.

Committee on Yale College expansion. There exists a lot of confusion among the faculty as to the implications of the Yale College expansion. Departments are not hiring new faculty and not expanding the size of the graduate program. What is the expanded Yale College going to look like? Who will be teaching, under what conditions, and who will be making those decisions?

Budget and finance committee. Many issues involve the allocation of university resources. What is the status of the FAS within the university? What is the status of the resources of the FAS?

Peer advisory committee. This would provide a tangible point of contact for the faculty to come to the Senate and for the Senate to be useful to the faculty. It would also provide the FASS with an opportunity to gather information in a useful way about what is going on around campus. It was commented that the website should have links to the bios and affiliations of the FASS to provide an entry point for faculty members who might think they have a connection.

Several people suggested a further committee on the status of the faculty. This could address different topics, such as excellence and productivity one year, diversity the next, parenting the next. There was a suggestion that the committee on the faculty be comprised of two additional committees, one on excellence of the faculty and one on faculty support broadly defined. The Chair acknowledged that there is strong interest in this question and perhaps it could be weighed over email and the Executive Council could draw up a plan.

The Chair noted that the bylaws committees needed no vote as they were already in the FASS rules. The Chair inquired if the FASS wanted to vote the three committees into being: the ad hoc committee on the expansion of Yale College; the standing committee on budget and finance; and the standing peer advisory standing committee. There was a motion to approve these three committees by Karen Wynn, seconded by Mark Mooseker. **The proposal was approved by show of hands.**

It was suggested by the Chair without objection that a proposal for defining the faculty development committee would be considered by the Executive Council; and establishing this additional committee would be discussed at the next Senate meeting on October 15.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Submitted:

William Nordhaus, Deputy Chair/Secretary
Approved October 15, 2015