Meeting Agenda

10:00 – 10:05
Introduction

10:05 – 10:15
Presentation by the University Ombuds
Ann-Louise Shapiro

10:15 – 10:30
University Faculty Senate (UFS) - update and mid-term election

10:30 – 10:50
Presentation on Student Health - Part II
Shana Agid, with Tamara Oyola and Tracy Robin

10:50 – 11:10
Update on the Executive Dean Search Committee
Laura Auricchio and Lucille Tenazas

11:10 – 11:30
Open forum

MEETING MINUTES
Submitted by Alaiyo Bradshaw 10/31/18

Attendance at approx. 60 members

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by John Sharp, co-chair of the PFC
John presented the agenda items. Caroline Dionne, co-chair of the PFC, introduced the University Ombuds, Ann-Louise Shapiro

OBJECTIVES OR TOPICS COVERED BY THE PFC
● Continue to monitor the Executive Dean Search process, including the final touch on Deanship transitions language
● Improve communication through the webpage which will serve as a centralized information platform

10:05 – 10:15 Presentation by the University Ombuds, Ann-Louise Shapiro
Ann-Louise gave an overall summary and history of how the role of Ombuds developed. There is a student Ombuds office. Both are not a part of the Provost or any office. The University office practices ethical protocols. All conversations are confidential and informal. Most come to discuss problems. Only
physical harm is reported. The office acts as a neutral party and helps to find resources. A further focus is to help faculty advocate for themselves. Common discussions include work slowdowns, absence and a need to find ways to resolve workforce conflicts.

Generational, cultural, appropriate behavior are also needs that are considered. In order to work in teams, there needs to be better communication. She discusses how to deal with coworkers, superiors, University policies and uncovers what is at the heart of their discontent. Others can be brought in at the request of the visitors and Ann-Louise will mediate. Conflict can be addressed in many ways. Assessments are made without breaking confidentiality. Workshops will be offered – There will be two workshops on how to handle conflict and how to handle difficult conversations. Ann-Louise is open to receiving other workshop suggestions for an inclusive experience.

PFA questions for Ann-Louise:
Q. Are there separate Ombuds for faculty, students and staff?
A. Yes, there is a separate student Ombuds.

Q. Would you be willing to share the common topics discussed in your office?
A. Issues such as job descriptions, policies, how the workflow is communicated, work balance.

Q. What is your background?
A. I was faculty at Lang and NSSR, retired, then came back as the Ombuds

10:15 – 10:30 Presentation by University Faculty Senate (UFS)

Senate Chair Craig Bernecker listed the members of the Senate and gave an update on faculty and shared governance. He spoke about committee elections and a full contingent of senators from all of the schools. Parsons has the most. The Provost and President are getting involved in Faculty Governance Day.

Parsons is concerned with representation on University committees, such as the University Budget Committee. The issue of converting EE to Tenure positions is being discussed with the Board of Trustees. The Senate will be meeting with the Provost and President monthly regarding overall issues.

Lucianna Scrutchen on Budget Committee issues: there was a summary of the Town Hall budget report. The Senate wants to have a larger Town Hall to answer questions and to meet with faculty around the University for discussions on the financial structure.

Caroline called for nominations for Faculty Senate. There will be ballot by email process within the next two weeks. She will be looking for a good turnout.

10:30 – 10:50 Presentation on Student Health Part II by Shana Agid with Tamara Oyola (Tracy Robin had a student crisis and could not be there to present)

The office is located at 80 5th Avenue. They offer counseling, Medical-Primary Care, Public Health, Health Insurance for students. Shana gave an overview of the resolution that he raised regarding healthcare issues and introduced Tamara from Student Health Services. Tamara’s focus was to answer questions and show the types of health issues they are seeing from students. She presented slides with lists and statistics pointing to the main concerns. Tamara presented three surveys.

Context
1. *The National College Health Assessment (NCHA)* since 2005 has been conducted every two years. 1200 respondents. Tamara advocates that the data should be analyzed in different ways.

2. *Healthy Minds Study (HMS)* Fall 2016-17 respondents. Data-46% have a mental health diagnosis. Key points=finances, academics, career

3. *New School Food Pantry Survey* 2017-18 - 200 unique respondents

**Executive Summary**

Sex- Risk behavior is high. The office provides HIV testing, birth control, STD prevention and advice on stalking, physical and mental abuse.

- **Mental Health**-Top 3-stress, anxious, and depression. List breakdown-overwhelmed, exhausted, angry, sad, lonely, anxiety, hopeless, depressed. The survey started in 2005. The office provides psychotherapy with limited sessions of 8 for health insured. There is a referral network, and medical and group counseling services are unlimited.

- **Drugs and alcohol**-lower actual use than perceived use

- **Food**-28% ran out of money for food

The presentation proposal/demands of the relationship of well-being and the mission of the University. It looked at student populations: color, LGBTQ, international and the overall. It also compared populations regarding food and running out of money, use of the pantry, sleeping in buildings open for 24 hours, and those unable to afford rent. The same populations were assessed for anxiety, depression, finances, stress, work.

- Tamara asked how the PFA audience could become involved. Faculty observations. How do we support students together?

**PFA questions for Tamara:**

Q. How are your questions posed such as anger, frequency?

A. Validated by researchers, Yes, No, Rarely, Occasional. The questions are available online. Survey and national averages.

Q. Attention deficit and bipolar-what are the categories?

A. Shana shared report, and the numbers for these disorders are there. Care and treatment feedback.

Caroline invited the PFA to question more, note questions down, and to send them to Shana.

PFC set up a Google Doc shared and invited all PFA members to weigh in. Caroline reminded the PFA to look at the Google Doc shared that morning.

**10:50 – 11:10 Update on the Executive Dean Search Committee by Laura Auricchio and Lucille Tenazas**

The committee narrowed down choices. The search firm has been called on for clarification, and they are very responsive. However, it did not start that way. Meetings are straightforward, candid and voices are heard. 60 candidates were finalists in the Executive Dean’s Search. Many were nominated by Parsons faculty, and some came by way of the search firm, others were self-nominated. The 60 were later narrowed down to 25. The breakdown is 20 are external, four are internal, and one is internal undecided. The interview process will be completed in a condensed period of time. In a week there will be sub-committees formed when making the final decisions. On **November 5, 6,12 and 13, candidates will be at Parsons for a campus visit.**
Laura reported on the diversity breakdown of the 25 candidates. There were cultural assumptions. The search firm usually works internationally. They did not collect self-reporting data. The search committee did find diversity on their own. 100’s of people were initially interviewed. They were asked for diversity recommendations. The committee used the references. Data from Oct. 8 – The diverse pool was made up of 1/3 male, 2/3 female, 17 African Americans. Most females were international and non-white. The search committee drafted five questions and assessed 24 candidates based on strengths, weaknesses, potentials. They originally wanted 12 finalists but ended up with 24. The candidates will be narrowed down to 4.

PFA questions for Laura and Lucille:
Q. How can PFC collect feedback from job talks or help?
A. We have not planned this out but will take you up on your offer.

Q. When will we get the schedule of events?
A. Not sure yet, each step leads to another step.

Q. Will there be time during job talks for questions from the audience?
A. Yes, from faculty, students, staff and Board of Governors.

Q. Can you have the talks from 2:50-3:50 when more people are free?
A. Great feedback. We will take that into consideration.

Q. What percentage of those come from academic backgrounds?
A. More than ½ of the candidate. Others have involvement in higher ed.

11:10 – 11:30 Open forum
(Faculty comment)

Caroline showed the proposed resolution and website and how it will be updated. She discussed fostering a better mode of communication.

Shana came back and felt stumped with how to move forward. He needed to know how to craft a follow-up. According to the feedback from the last couple of weeks, things could go two ways to move forward to get meaningful input for student health services. Do we want the Senate to take this up or form a committee of students, faculty, and staff?

One PFA suggestion for Shana:
S. I suggest not to think of mental health as a medical condition. Also, to think how the classroom can be changed by faculty.
A. Thank you for your response.

Caroline defined the PFA as an advisory body who then has to go through the University Senate and work closely with the Executive Deans and the Deans Council. She suggested going through the Senate with the Student Health concerns.

Shana proposed working on language to bring to the Faculty Senate. He will then circulate the language and speak with the Senators and PFC. Shana’s focus is on timeliness, to insist on a voice, and have a robust conversation.

Meeting Adjourned by John Sharp at 11:30.