

REPORT TO UO SENTATE

TO: University of Oregon Senate
FROM: John Chalmers, Professor of Finance, FAC Co-Chair
Lynn Stephen, Professor of Anthropology, FAC Co-Chair
DATE: June 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Faculty Advisory Committee 2019-20 End of Year Report

The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) met on most Mondays during the fall and winter terms, and met every other Monday during spring term. Meetings were an hour long. A list of members is at the end of this summary.

We express our gratitude to the members of the FAC for their service. Conversations were thoughtful, dynamic, and candid, and—we are told—useful to the administration.

The FAC is an advisory body and is not a body that produces policy or otherwise makes decisions. The counsel and advice provided by the group is meant to help the president and provost—along with other senior administrators—to better navigate situations by using the collective experience and perspective of FAC members.

A handful of meetings, particularly at the start of the year, were informative to FAC members, meant to improve members' base of understanding of key institutional systems and structures, such as the university's budget, incident management tools, or communications mechanisms. Topics for discussion were established by the president, provost, and us, using a combination of (i) items they wanted and needed advice on and (ii) topics members felt important to discuss and raise. A generalized list of topics discussed is below.

This year's council built on the practice established last year of inviting more layers of the administration into our conversations. Rather than always using the president and provost as a conduit, we had direct engagement with various vice presidents, associate vice presidents, or others who directly work on specific matters.

As in previous years, the FAC agreed to observe a high level of confidentiality. Members agreed to not discuss, outside of FAC: conversations during meetings, comments made by participants, topics discussed or scheduled to be discussed, or the substance or nature of these discussions. On occasion, explicit authorization was given to share specific conversations or anecdotes when sharing such information would advance an overall discussion or effort.

We appreciate the time and energy of all FAC members—elected or ex officio—and wish the 2020-2021 FAC the best of luck. There is no shortage of timely, important

conversations to which the FAC's members can add tremendous value.

General topics discussed¹:

Academic continuity
Budget and financial modeling
Campus civility and climate
Communications – internal and external
Crisis response
Faculty governance and engagement
Intercollegiate athletics
Labor relations and bargaining
Pandemic response and planning
Provost initiatives
Student recruitment and make-up of the student body
Teaching evaluations

Elected Members:

Nick Allen, Professor of Psychology, CAS
John Chalmers, Professor of Finance, LCB
Nicole Dahmen, Associate Professor, SOJC
Spike Gildea, Professor of Linguistics, CAS
Roberta Mann, Professor of Law
Jen Mirabile, Sr. HR Programs Coordinator, Human Resources
Elizabeth Peterson, Humanities Librarian, UO Libraries
Sasha Polishchuk, Professor of Mathematics, CAS
Vera Sebulsky, Graduate Recruiter, LCB
Idit Shner, Professor of Music, SOMD
Lynn Stephen, Professor of Anthropology, CAS
Randy Sullivan, Instructor, Chemistry/Biochemistry, CAS
Deanne Unruh, Associate Research Professor, Secondary Special Education & Transition,

Ex officio Members:

Elliot Berkman, Senate Vice President
Patrick Phillips, Provost and Sr. Vice President
Michael Schill, President
Elizabeth Skowron, Senate President
Janet Woodruff-Borden, Executive Vice Provost

¹ The topics we talked about were a combination of themes brought by FAC members as well as the President and Provost.