

Faculty Council Year End Report (AY 2022-2023)

Submitted by Concepcion Barrio and Dawn Joosten-Hagye, chair and vice chair
June 5, 2023

Faculty Council members: Concepcion Barrio, Daniel Hackman, Yuri Jang, Dawn Joosten-Hagye, Tracie Kirkland, Rick Newmyer, Eric Rice, Holly Sotelo

Ex-Officio members: Judy Garner, Devon Brooks, Ruth Supranovich, Jennifer Lewis

Transition at SDP-SW 2022-2023

On August 1, 2022, Dean Sarah Gehlert ended her tenure as Dean of our school. As such, we began the academic year under new leadership with the appointment of Dean Vassilios Papadopoulos from the School of Pharmacy as our interim dean. His leadership team included Judy Garner from Keck, who with her vast experience in academic administration provides key oversight of our office of Faculty Affairs.

Based on input from various faculty and staff stakeholders, the Council worked to facilitate and support clear communication and transparency between the Dean's Office and faculty and staff. The year began with a successful Faculty and Staff retreat with a majority in-person attendance. In addition to participating in our monthly Faculty and Staff meetings, Dean Papadopoulos held two Town Hall meetings, one each semester, and reported on the state of the school including on budget matters and projections. At all times, the Council and the Dean's Office invited open discussion and encouraged ongoing feedback.

Activities and Accomplishments

The Council focused on the revision of our Faculty Guidebook, which in the previous academic year had been approved by faculty vote but not by the Provost Office. A subcommittee of the Council spearheaded this revision, with the guidance of Judy Garner and available models for restructuring the Guidebook into three documents—the Governance document, the Council Bylaws and bylaws for the Faculty Committee on Appointments and Promotions (FCAP). The subcommittee's work was a major task over the course of the year. The Council communicated with all faculty lines and incorporated their input and recommendations, in attending to transparency and inclusiveness throughout the process. As a result, the three documents were approved by faculty vote by an overwhelming majority in May 2023. The Governance document was submitted to the Provost Office awaiting approval.

The Council reviewed and recommended the promotion of nine faculty candidates. There were two tenure line faculty promotions, from Assistant to Associate Professor with tenure. There were seven RTPC promotions across four faculty subgroups (Teaching in Social Work, Teaching in Nursing, Research, and Practicum Education).

The Council also began to examine our APR process in response to feedback from various faculty lines that characterized it as cumbersome and overly burdensome for faculty and peer reviewers. The Council consulted with the President of the Academic Senate, who provided guidance for next steps. The Council formed a subcommittee that will tackle the APR reform process over the next academic year.

The Council's two senators, Concepcion Barrio and Tracie Kirkland, participated in all Academic Senate meetings and shared key and relevant information with the faculty.