

FAS Senate

AN ELECTED BODY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES
YALE UNIVERSITY

FAS Senate Meeting

Thursday October 25, 2018, CT Hall, Rm. 201

APPROVED

In attendance:

Senators: William Nordhaus, Chair; Jill Campbell, Deputy Chair; Sybil Alexandrov, Howard Bloch, Marijeta Bozovic, Alexandre Debs, Emily Erikson, John Geanakoplos, Shiri Goren, Matthew Jacobson, Ruth Koizim, Rajit Manohar, Nikhil Padmanabhan, Ruzica Piskac, Theresa Schenker, Mark Solomon

FASS Program Coordinator: Rose Rita Riccitelli

Absent: Senators Arielle Baskin-Sommers, Maria Doerfler, Jennifer Klein, Maureen Long, Charles Schmuttenmaer, Ian Shapiro

Guests: Julia Adams, Dirk Bergemann, Stan Eisenstat, Michael Fischer, Moira Fradinger, Tamar Gendler, Emily Greenwood, John MacKay, Doug Rogers, Joel Rosenbaum, Tony Smith, Katie Trumpener, Anders Winroth. Non-faculty: John Mangan, Bethany Zemba

Agenda and Senate actions in bold

1. Welcome and report from Bill Nordhaus, Senate Chair

The meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate (FASS) was called to order by Chair William Nordhaus at 4 PM. Mr. Nordhaus welcomed senators and guests.

Mr. Nordhaus spoke of the purposes of FASS as an elected advisory body created by and representative of the FAS Faculty, who are the permanent citizens and constitute the core of a university. The FAS Senate helps ensure that the vast resources of the university are used wisely and are not diverted to less essential causes.

He reported that the new Senate Executive Council (EC) met three times since the last open FASS meeting, continuing to follow through on a number of initiatives. The FASS was involved in discussions with the Provost on the new pension plan. Last year's FASS Committee on Governance and Institutional Policy recommended that the President establish a committee to review the implementation of the 2014 Decanal Report, focusing on the implementation of recommendations on the decanal structure and the establishment of an FAS budget under the responsibility of the FAS. The EC has recommended that the new committee be formed and charged in the Spring of 2019.

2. Committee reports

Matthew Jacobson reported on the Faculty Parental Leave Policy. He noted some positive changes in accord with the FASS 2016 report recommendations: teaching relief, parental benefits, and extension of tenure clock granted on a per faculty rather than per child basis, and the elimination of the requirement to verify spousal employment. He also emphasized areas for continuing work—in particular, inclusion of the instructional faculty in the policy.

Mr. Jacobson reported that the committee will issue an addendum report on what has been accomplished in the new policy, what remains to be done, and what the FASS plans to do next.

Jill Campbell, Deputy Chair, described a new proposed approach to Senate minutes, structured around the agenda and highlighting Senate actions and main points of discussion. Mr. Nordhaus noted that there is a pending proposal to supplement this less discursive form of minutes with recordings and perhaps transcripts of meetings, available for any faculty member wishing to review them. In the past, in accord with FASS bylaws, recordings of meetings have not been preserved after minutes were approved.

3. Further discussion and vote on Elections Committee report

The 2017-18 Elections Committee was asked to address procedural issues that emerged in the 2016 and 2017 FASS elections. Emily Erikson, chair of that committee, presented their report (available on the FASS website), which clarifies several procedural issues and proposes two changes to the bylaws that require an FASS vote: clarification of the constituency of the Senate and the synchronizing of Senate and Executive Council terms of appointment.

The Senate voted unanimously to approve the changes recommended by the Elections Committee.

Mr. Nordhaus noted the formation of a new FASS committee: the Yale College, Library, and Instructional Faculty Ad Hoc Committee, co-chaired by Shiri Goren and Jennifer Klein.

4. Faculty commenter: Katie Trumpener, Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Film & Media Studies, on demolition of historic buildings at Yale

Katie Trumpener addressed the Senate on the issue of demolition of historic buildings at Yale, citing in particular the demolition of the pavilion at the base of Kline Tower, included in Philip Johnson's design, as well as several architecturally significant nineteenth-century structures. She expressed concern about the apparent lack of consultation and public process accompanying the demolition of historic buildings.

She asked the Senate to recommend the establishment of a faculty and curatorial committee to provide historic context, intellectual insight, and aesthetic judgements, and to ensure that those making planning decisions fully understand their consequences. (Her full statement is attached below.)

5. Presentation on 2018 CESOF report – Tony Smith, Professor of Economics and of Management

Tony Smith, Professor of Economics and of Management and Chair of the 2016-18 Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESOF), presented key points from the *CESOF* report dated October 18, 2018. The report is available on the FAS website at <https://fas.yale.edu/>. At the request of the Dean, the report and its findings are not to be circulated beyond the FAS faculty. Mr. Smith offered highlights of some of the most urgent topics, including the declining trend in Yale FAS salaries relative to peer institutions; the decline in the value of Yale's tuition benefits; and the unequal distribution of service among faculty, including by gender. Mr. Smith entertained questions from the floor.

6. Discussion of the revised draft of the Senate *Report on Research and Scholarly Excellence*

Mr. Nordhaus introduced John Geanakoplos and Emily Erickson, Co-Chairs of the FASS Committee on Faculty Advancement, to discuss the new draft of the committee's *Report on Research and Scholarly Excellence*. Two and a half years ago the FAS voted to investigate concerns about the direction of the FAS through a survey of faculty views, interviews with the Chairs of twelve large departments, and examination of public data about university rankings and faculty salaries. The survey received 495 faculty responses. Mr. Geanakoplos narrated the sequence of discussions with Yale administrators in the months since its initial drafting and of successive revisions of the report. The most recent draft was distributed to the FASS and guests for suggestions and comments towards further revision.

Mr. Nordhaus recognized the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Tamar Gendler, who thanked the committee for its efforts. She noted that there is nothing in the report that is news to the upper administration and said that the administration is in the process of making a number of investments designed to respond to the issues that the report's data reveal. Dean Gendler expressed concern about the possible effects of a broad public release of the report.

Discussion followed, focusing on the question of the scope of the report's release (exclusive to FAS faculty or more broadly); the responsibility of the Senate to colleagues who submitted responses to the survey; the adequacy of existing administration initiatives, including the recently-announced Faculty Excellence Initiative, to address the significant shortfall in FAS resources that the survey highlights; and the history of unavailing efforts by faculty members to call for more resources and attention to the FAS.

Discussion of the report will continue at the FASS November, 2018, meeting.

7. New business

Mr. Nordhaus asked if there was any new business, and with none, he adjourned the meeting at 6 PM.

Appendix: Faculty Commenter Katie Trumpener's remarks on demolition of historic buildings

I'm here to call your attention to a recent editorial from the New Haven Preservation Trust, ruing Yale's quiet demolition, last summer, of a pavilion building at the base of Kline Tower, and likewise designed by Philip Johnson. The editorial laments not only its now irrevocable loss as part of Johnson's original ensemble but the apparent lack of consultation and public process accompanying its demolition.

In recent years, the University has mounted wonderful renovations of some of its many architectural masterpieces (including the Beinecke, the art galleries, and the Architecture School). But it has also, despite protests, demolished several architecturally significant nineteenth-century structures—and now this as well.

I was unable to find publically-available information about what process the university uses before it decides upon or undertakes demolitions.

Our own distinguished architectural historians, curators, and architecture faculty would seem unusually well-placed to advise the university before any future demolitions.

So I ask the Senate to recommend the establishment of such a faculty and curatorial committee, to provide historic context, intellectual insight, and aesthetic judgements, and to ensure that those making planning decisions fully understand their consequences.

The University recently created a new Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (housed on West Campus) "to safeguard cultural heritage, both on a global and local scale, to preserve it for future

generations.” But this same mandate remains crucial vis-à-vis our own campus. And our own faculty and curators should regularly be consulted as the stewards of *our* irreplaceable monuments and built spaces.