Minutes: National Council of Faculty Senates Meeting, August 4, 2022

Attendees: Sandra Alspach, Ferris State University; Devin Bickner, University of Wisconsin Green Bay; Walt Borges, University of North Texas; Maria Botero, Sam Houston State University; Claire Bourgeois, Nicholls State University; Eric Coleman, University of North Texas; John Dunn, Northwestern State University; Trevor Hale, Texas A&M; Damon Hay, Sam Houston State University; Martha Horst, Illinois State University; Gwen Kay, SUNY Oswego; Michael Kesden, University of Texas at Dallas; Arlene King-Berry University of the District of Columbia; Keith Landa, SUNY Faculty Senate; Manis Madan, Stockton University; Joanne Liebman Matson, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Jen Moon, University of Texas at Austin; Michael Nelson, University of Texas at Arlington; Marcel Rotter, Mary Washington University + Faculty Senate of Virginia; Kate Shannon, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Arieh Sherris, Texas A&M University at Kingsville; Robert Weiss, Virginia Tech

Meeting called to order at 8:35am.

Gwen Kay welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered a brief history of the National Council of Faculty Senates. The first meeting was held in Austin, in October 2018, at the invitation of members of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Deciding that this was a good idea, bylaws were produced. Trevor Hale was elected president, Diane Henschel (Indiana State) was elected secretary. The second meeting, in October 2019, in Austin led to the approval of bylaws and election of officers (Diane Henschel, secretary, Martha Horst, treasurer, Gwen Kay, vice president). Some momentum was lost in the pandemic, although a September 2020 virtual meeting was attended by over 100 people, with speakers discussing diversity and inclusion, and academic freedom and freedom of speech. The goal of this meeting was to confirm the need for this organization, and build out.

In breakout sessions, two groups discussed issues of common concern: shared governance structures and decision making; and non-tenure-track members + staff participation in shared governance. This followed an earlier discussion on the relationship between unions and shared governance. The full body reconvened to discuss issues of academic freedom and freedom of speech.

The mission of NCFS and our bylaws was presented by Treasurer Martha Horst. This information is needed in part to pursue 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. We voted to amend the [bylaws](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15LxwE9LuZfjTFordHJt9UO91oAo7-gnI/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103281573624751935311&rtpof=true&sd=true).

Following successful elections, we extend our thanks to Martha Horst for serving for so long as our treasurer. We welcome Wynne Chin (UoHouston) as our new treasurer, and Arlene King-Berry (Uothe District of Columbia) as our new vice president.

Three committees held meetings to set their agenda for the year. The Annual Meeting Committee, chaired by Eric Coleman, will secure a location in Washington, DC for the 2023 annual meeting, possibly in June. The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Manish Madan, will review the current bylaws; look at classes of membership; consider adding new committees (including outreach & social affairs; social justice; diversity and inclusion; foreign faculty concerns); add language about removal of officers and members; establish a code of conduct; and consider caucuses. The Communications Committee, chaired by Martha Horst, will work to expand the membership; host a series of webinars or facilitated conversations on shared governance topics twice per semester; and collect issues of import to share with members or make public statements.

The meeting adjourned at 4p.m.

Thanks to John Dunn, Keith Landa, Kate Shannon, and Robert Weiss for crowdsourcing the minutes.