

Present: Drs. Abraham, Abrams, Blackwell, Born, Bourdeaux, Chang, Daley, Da Silva, del Carmen, Dienstag, DePace, Ferran, Fishman, Howley, Khoshbin, King, Klig, Lee, Lovejoy, McNeil, Mullen, Murray, Nour, Park, Patel, Pian-Smith, Rexrode, Richardson, Rodriguez, Rose, Solomon, Taqueti, Weinstock.

Guests: Drs. Bates, Garber, Golan, Muto, and Westlund; Mss. Buckley, DeCoste

Staff: Mss. Hecht, Ryan, Williams

Dean Daley called the meeting to order at approximately 4:06pm. He asked for and received acceptance of the minutes for the January 15, 2020 meeting, as presented.

He spoke to the climate change, stating the agenda would be switched so that the Council can hear the University's stance on Climate change and divestment, before the Council has their discussion on the proposed resolution. He mentioned he doesn't think there is anyone in leadership who disagrees with the common goal.

He called upon Dr. Kathy Rexrode, Faculty Council Vice Chair, to give a report from the Faculty Council (FC) Governance Subcommittee.

Dr. Rexrode presented the Governance Subcommittee's recommendations to revise the Faculty Council membership structure and elections process. The recommendations and voting outcomes are as follows:

- There are currently two at large seats for the HSDM.
 - o Recommendation: To generate increasing diversity of perspective on Faculty Council, limit one of the HSDM seats to a senior faculty member and the second seat for a junior faculty member
 - o Outcome: Unanimously passed

- According to a Memorandum dated January 1975 with respect to the Procedure for Election of a Faculty Council, the HSDM seats were intended to be elected solely by the HSDM faculty. In practice, however, all voting faculty from HMS and HSDM have been able to vote for nominated candidates in every category including the HSDM seats.
 - o Recommendation: Continue the practice of election by all members of the faculty
 - o Outcome: Approved, unanimously

- There are currently 11 Pre-Clinical seats (7 Senior and 4 Junior). At the inception of the Faculty Council, the number of senior seats allocated matched the number of departments. Those seats are now at large, as well as the 4 Junior Seats.
 - o Recommendation: Limiting HMS quad departments (Pre-Clinical seats) to one representative on faculty council, regardless of junior/senior status
 - o Outcome: no vote, more discussion is needed on this topic.

- Faculty Council was intended to be a representative body. It has been noted that Department Chairs and Deans already have administrative authority and the opportunity to influence outside of the Faculty Council.
 - o Recommendation: Exempt those who hold a decanal position other than advisory deans from being elected and serving on Faculty Council
 - o Outcome: Approved Favor: 29 Opposed: 2

- Currently, Faculty Council terms are for three years, with no term limitations, meaning members can serve multiple consecutive terms.
 - o Recommendation: Faculty are ordinarily limited to two (2) consecutive terms (6 years) and may not run again for two (2) years.
 - o Outcome: Approved Favor: 29 Opposed: 2

Dean Daley stepped out of the room so the Council could discuss the last proposal.

The Subcommittee recommended the creation of a new chair/vice chair structure. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine would no longer serve as Chair of the Faculty Council, but rather attend and engage with the FC around the issues and recommendations that they make to the Dean. The Subcommittee proposed that members of the FC in their first or second year term be eligible for serve in the vice-chair/chair role. The Council would elect a vice-chair/chair from the membership who will serve a two year term. The first year of service will be as vice chair and the second year as chair. In instances where the vice chair is serving in their third year, their term on faculty council would be extended so that they may fulfill their term as chair in the fourth year as a non-voting member.

The Council lead a discussion and voiced concerns regarding removing the Dean as Chair. Future Deans might not be as invested in Faculty Council and therefore see their attendance as not needed. An update to the bylaws would be needed requiring the dean attend Faculty Council meetings. There were also concerns regarding needing a mechanism in place to remove someone as chair. This will be discussed further at a future Faculty Council meeting.

Outcome: a vote was taken to create a faculty vice chair/chair position, removing the Dean as the chair of the Faculty Council Chair and passed, with the assumption that adding a stipulation for removing an unfit chair be considered and voted on at a future meeting. Favor: 26 Opposed: 3 Abstained: 2

Next, Dean Daley asked that the Council address the agenda item on Climate Change. Dean Daley invited Provost Garber to provide the University's position on this issue. Dean Daley felt it was important for the Council to hear from Provost Garber before the Council discussed and voted on the Climate Change Resolution.

Provost Garber thanked the Council for welcoming him. He stated that this topic has been an important issue for the University and the community. He stressed that Climate Change is an existential threat with dire consequences. He indicated that the university is focused on what it can do to best address climate change.

Provost Garber discussed the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) faculty meeting and their vote to expand how Harvard thinks of climate change, looking beyond divestment from fossil fuels. Provost Garber gave an overview of how Harvard invests, and how holdings and funds are managed.

Provost Garber cautioned associating words like “immoral” and condemning companies. He noted that fossil fuel companies are also investing and funding renewable sources and we need to work together.

In closing, Provost Garber urged against a blanket condemnation and encouraged the Council to focus on removing carbon from the atmosphere, creating renewable energy, reducing fossil fuels and creating alternatives.

Provost Garber exited the meeting.

Drs. Solomon and Bourdeaux reviewed the revised resolution, which incorporated feedback from the January meeting.

A motion was called to separate the resolution into four separate resolutions. This motion carried.

The Faculty Council then proceeded to vote on the following resolutions.

1. Be it resolved that the Faculty Council of Harvard Medical School calls on Harvard Medical School to declare the climate crisis a health emergency requiring urgent action.

28 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

2. Be it resolved that the Faculty Council of Harvard Medical School calls on Harvard Medical School to endorse the US Call to Action on Climate, Health and Equity.

18 in favor, 8 opposed, 2 abstentions

3. Be it resolved that the Faculty Council of Harvard Medical School calls on the Harvard Corporation to divest Harvard’s endowment from the fossil fuel industry, by eliminating all direct investments and commingled assets in companies that generate the majority of their profits from the exploration for, production of, transportation of, or sale of fossil fuels.

23 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions

4. Be it resolved that the Faculty Council urges Dean Daley call on the Harvard Corporation to divest Harvard’s endowment from the fossil fuel industry, by eliminating all direct investments and commingled assets in companies that generate the majority of their profits from the exploration for, production of, transportation of, or sale of fossil fuels on behalf of Harvard Medical School.

23 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions

Dean Daley adjourned the meeting at 6:02pm.