



HMS/HSDM Faculty Council

Faculty Council Minutes
November 10, 2021

Present: Abrams, Adelman, Becker, Blackwell, Caradonna, Chen, Da Silva, Daley, DAmico, del Carmen, DePace, Desrosiers, Giannobile, Goldstein, Hatfield, Ho, Huang, Ingelfinger, Irani, Lee, Livingstone, Molina, Mullen, Murray, Nayak, Okereke, Park, Patel, Pian-Smith, Rodriguez, Solomon, Spring, Stone, Wagers, Weinstock

Guests: Drs. Bates, Ferran, Garber, Hundert, Muto, Stock, Westlund; Mss. Bittinger, DeCoste; Mr. Chantaruchirakorn

Staff: Mss. Hecht, Ryan, Williams

This Faculty Council meeting was held virtually, via Zoom, due the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faculty Council Chair, Dr. Marcela del Carmen, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:04pm. Dr. del Carmen then asked for and received acceptance of the minutes from the October 6, 2021 meeting, as presented.

Dr. del Carmen reviewed the meeting agenda. Provost Alan Garber attended the meeting to hold his annual conversation with the Council. After conversations with the Provost, the Faculty Council Climate Change subcommittee and the Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability James H. Stock, PhD would lead a discussion.

Provost Garber was introduced and addressed a couple topics the Council submitted in advance.

He provided an update on the work Dr. Sherri Ann Charleston has done since assuming her role in September 2020 as the first Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer (CDIO) at Harvard. Provost Garber note that Dr. Charleston has spent time with students, faculty, and staff learning each schools' individual policies and how the University can learn from them. Provost Garber provided an example of how schools can learn from each other. As the Council heard from Dean Daley at the October Faculty Council meeting, Harvard Medical School (HMS) and Children's Hospital of Boston (CHB) took part in a cluster hire earlier this year, with successful recruitment of faculty on the Quad and at CHB. To promote diversity in faculty, the University is now looking at doing cluster hires.

Provost Garber briefly discussed the Harvard University Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Leadership Council (DIB Leadership Council) which consists of leaders across Harvard schools and units dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work across the University. HMS's dean for diversity and community partnership, Dr. Joan Reede, is on this council, as is Brian J. Swann, interim assistant dean for diversity, including, and belonging at HSDM. Provost Garber also discussed the DIB Network which will include administrators who have a role in diversity, inclusion, belonging, and equity and will work together to coordinate efforts and initiatives university-wide.

With regards to student body efforts, Provost Garber stated that these are largely done at the school level. They see a lot of work being done at every school in this regard, and this is where the most rapid progress is seen.

Provost Garber addressed the Admissions case briefly before opening up for questions by the Council.

After some discussion, Dr. del Carmen thanked the Provost for his time and introduced members of the Faculty Council Climate Change subcommittee, Drs. Caren Solomon, Christiane Ferran, David Weinstock, and the Harvard University Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability, Dr. James Stock.

Dr. Caren Solomon gave an update on the HMS Faculty council Climate Change subcommittee. She reviewed the major health risks associated with climate change including exposure pathways and examples of health outcomes and how the risks disproportionately affect the poor and those of color. She reviewed the key areas of effort for 2019-2020 which included: divestment and emergency declaration, sustainability planning across HMS and affiliates, and HMS curriculum content. Dr. Solomon reviewed the climate change motions approved by the Faculty Council at the February 12, 2020 meeting. She also mentioned that at the November 4, 2020 Faculty Council meeting the subcommittee was charged with developing a proposal to the Dean for a standing committee or other mechanism for supporting ongoing work and collaborations at HMS/affiliates related to climate change and health.

Dr. Solomon recapped subcommittee activities for 2020-2021 which included: receiving input from relevant stakeholders (faculty experts in climate and health, SEAM leaders), sustainability leaders at HMS and affiliates, discussions with Rick McCullough (Vice-Provost for Research at Harvard University) and with Dean Gretchen Brodnicki, chair of IPSI (Initiatives, Programs, Centers, Institutes) Oversight Committee. She discussed two initiatives, one on climate change and health education and the other on climate change and health research.

Dr. del Carmen thanked Dr. Solomon and introduced the next speaker, Dr. James Stock.

Dr. Stock discussed his background and the goals Harvard President Larry Bacow outlined in his communication to the Harvard Community. A copy of this was sent in advance of the meeting. As the inaugural Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability, Dr. Stock discussed some of his plans since joining Harvard in September. Knowing how decentralized Harvard is, he wants to provide an incentive and facilities across Harvard to get people to work together on concrete projects that would have relevance and impact in the real world. Starting up this semester, Fall 2021, a committee was formed to focus on teaching, as a University, to educate and prepare the teachers of tomorrow.

Some discussion between the Council and Dr. Stock took place on whether or not Harvard would establish a full school of climate like Stanford and Yale. Dr. Stock stated that Harvard is not going to compete by starting a school, but rather draw on the expertise and ambitions in education, research, and build on strengths of each individual school.

After further discussion, Dean Daley stated he hopes to have Dr. Stock back and suggested the Council invite HMS's Chief Campus Planning and Facilities Officer, Steve Maiorisi, to a future meeting to learn more on what HMS plans are.

Dr. del Carmen thanked the Council for their thoughtfulness and dedication and adjourned the meeting at 5:21pm.