

Meeting Minutes of the Governance Council  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 2:30-4:30pm  
via Zoom

**Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes**

Elizabeth Geltman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:35pm. She welcomed the just elected adjunct faculty and staff members and elected alternates of the Governance Council: Robin Moon, adjunct faculty member, and Nicholas Grosskopf, alternate adjunct faculty member; Mohit Arora, Sapphire Howard, Arthur McHugh and Matt Paczkowski, staff members, and Lea Dias and Meg Krudysz, alternate staff members. She requested and received approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2020.

**Dean's Report**

Ayman joined the Chair in welcoming the new members of the Governance Council. The addition of adjunct faculty and staff representation to the Council is a reflection of the growth and maturity of CUNY SPH. He noted that he looks forward to the addition of research faculty representation on the Council in the new academic year. Reporting on the budget, he said that the university's budget is in a more secure position—the anticipated 20% budget cut from CUNY Central is now expected to be just five percent. SPH continues to be in good financial shape, which is particularly a result of the excellent fall and spring enrollment results. He also said that he is resuming the searches for new faculty hires that were suspended last year, and will seek approval from the VRB/CUNY Central to hire the final candidates. In addition, there are a couple of necessary staff hires, for which he will seek VRB approval. Looking to the fall 2021 semester and reopening plans, Ayman noted that the situation remains unclear and the details of reopening are at a transitional phase. He said that Susan will report on the status of these transitional plans later in the meeting. Ayman said that the ad hoc Governance Plan Task Force has formed two working groups to revise SPH's Bylaws and will have a draft to the Governance Council for their review and input at its March meeting. A vote on the revised Bylaws will occur only after this open review process.

**Governance Council Elections: APT At-Large Member Election and Governance Council Chair Election**

*Elizabeth Geltman, Chair, and Dean Ayman El-Mohandes*

The Chair introduced the two nominees for the APT At-Large Member Election: Diana Romero, Associate Professor, Community Health and Social Sciences, and Levi Waldron, Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Their statements of interest were distributed in advance to the Governance Council. She invited each candidate to say a few words about their interest in the position. The Chair then called for a motion to hold a vote, which was seconded and approved. The vote yielded the following result: 17 votes for Diana Romero, 16 votes for Levi Waldron, 1 abstentions. The Chair said that Diana Romero is elected as the APT At-Large Member, and she thanked Diana and Levi for standing as nominees.

The Dean introduced the two nominees for the Governance Council Chair election: Elizabeth Geltman, current chair and Associate Professor, Health Policy and Management, and Glen Johnson, Associate Professor, Environmental, Occupational, and Geospatial Health Sciences. He noted that this election is being held because the Governance Council membership has changed, as per the new Governance Plan. Their statements of interest were distributed in advance to the Governance Council. He invited each candidate to say a few words about their interest in the position. Ayman then called for a motion to hold a vote, which was seconded and approved. The vote yielded the following result: 18 votes for Elizabeth Geltman, 20 votes for Glen Johnson, 1 abstention. The Dean said Glen Johnson is elected as new Governance Council Chair. He thanked Elizabeth and Glen for standing as nominees, and he thanked Elizabeth for her excellent service as Chair.

### **Faculty Update on Revised SPH Bylaws**

*Andrew Maroko and Heidi Jones, faculty members of the Ad Hoc Governance Plan Task Force*

Andrew reported on the work of the Working Group on Standing Committees. The group is updating the section on standing committees in the Bylaws to accord with the Governance Plan, and is adding in language and terms for two new standing committees. Input has been sought from the committee chairs and committee members. A draft will be circulated for review and comments.

Heidi reported on the work of the Working Group on Centers and Institutes. Previously, there was no language in the Bylaws on Centers and Institutes. The new Governance Plan does add provisions regarding Centers and Institutes, and her group is working on formulating specific language for the Bylaws, with input from the department chairs and Centers and Institutes directors. A draft will be circulated for review and comments.

### **APT Committee Report**

*Christian Grov, APT Committee Chair*

Christian said that with the election of a new APT Committee, the Committee will take up a review of the APT Guidelines, which were last updated in 2018. He said that a copy of the existing guidelines was distributed to the Governance Council for this meeting, and he invited faculty to email him comments and thoughts on possible changes. He said that a revised document will be brought back to this Council for review. In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that the revised guidelines include an objective to promote equity and diversity, and also include language to codify the university amendments to the promotion and tenure guidelines made as a result of the pandemic.

### **Admissions Committee Report**

*Ghada Soliman, Admissions Committee Chair*

Ghada reported on the status of PhD applications for fall 2021, as well as the status of admissions for fall 2021. She noted the application deadline for the MPH and MS program, which is March 1, 2021, and the application deadline for certificate programs, which is May 1, 2021. She asked the departments to continue to review the applications in a timely manner. She also noted the schedule for this semester's open houses, information sessions, and social media updates—events that help with the recruitment process—and she thanked everyone who participated in these events.

### **Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs' Report**

*Ashish Joshi, Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs*

Ashish presented a PowerPoint presentation on opportunities in student scholarships including the Deans scholarship, the scholarship from the New York Community Trust for the Industrial Hygiene program, the APA scholarship for the Oral Population Health program and the Deans doctoral scholarship. He reviewed the funding amounts in each of these opportunities and shared data on the distribution of funding by academic department and by masters and doctoral programs.

### **Associate Dean for Research's Report**

*Michele Kiely, Associate Dean for Research, SPaR*

Michele reminded the faculty that they should submit grant proposals to SPaR at least five days in advance of the due date. She then presented data on the submission of grant proposals for the first six months of the academic year by PI type, by funding source, and by faculty rank. She noted that 21 new grants were received in this period, the majority from the federal government, and she presented data on these new grants by amount, type and faculty rank. In the discussion that followed, it was requested that a summary of the substance of these grants be presented at a future meeting, and Michele said she would be pleased to do this.

### **Senior Associate Dean for Administration's Report**

*Susan Klitzman, Senior Associate Dean for Administration*

Susan reported on the status of the opening plans for the fall, which are definitely in flux. She noted that the reopening plan is on the SPH website, and she noted the other administrative sections, such as the forms to come to campus, on the site. CUNY Central has requested an updated reopening plan be submitted on May 24, 2021, which puts forth a plan for the school to operate at 25% capacity or more in the fall. She is working on a process for developing this plan that includes all stakeholders. Discussion followed.

### **Closing Comments**

Ayman thanked Elizabeth Geltman for her leadership of the FSC, which was especially important during this time of COVID and during the FSC's critical work on the revised Governance Plan and Bylaws. The members of the Governance Council also commended Elizabeth for her hard work and leadership.

Jean Grassman invited the faculty to the PSC meeting, which is being held at 4:30 today. All members are welcome.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Elizabeth adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doris Suarez