

Report from the Faculty Governance Committee
For the April 18, 2024 Faculty Meeting

dextro pede! — Petronius, *Satyrice* 30
“Right foot (first)!”

My Advanced Latin students are now translating Petronius’ satirical novel about life in Italy during the reign of the Emperor Nero. As guests enter Trimalchio’s house, they are commanded to step with their right foot first (*dextro pede*) to avoid the bad luck associated with entering *sinistro pede* (“left foot first”). FGC encourages all of you to step right-footedly into our first-ever St. Olaf Faculty Meeting presided over by a Faculty Chairperson *pro tempore*.

As I communicated via email back on March 21, President Singer, upon the recommendation of FGC, has delegated to Allison Luedtke (Economics), our current Parliamentarian, the responsibility for presiding over the Faculty Meeting this month and next month. Mike Fuerstein (Philosophy) has been appointed by FGC to serve as Parliamentarian in her place for those two months. Many thanks to Allison and Mike and to all of the rest of you for being so supportive of our experiment in shared governance. We had feared that we might receive no nominations or self-nominations, so it was a happy surprise to receive 18 of them (submitted by 32 faculty members) and to be left with five strong candidates after 13 had to decline.

We were also pleased with how many of you filled out and submitted the Faculty Service Preference Form. Even with the excellent response rate, however, we are still short of faculty available to fill certain positions. Our Nominations and Explorations Subcommittee, under the inspired leadership of Pete Gittins, has been working hard to dream up ways of dealing with “deficits” in the five Faculties. Ballots are currently being prepared for elections in April and May. Stay tuned for more information.

At the Faculty Meeting on April 18, we will be proposing **FGC Resolution 23/24-10 - Contingent Faculty Positions on Standing Committees**. This resolution has been in the works for several months. It proposes amendments at three points in the *Faculty Manual* to specify that the Faculty Governance Committee, the Faculty Life Committee, and the Curriculum Committee “shall each include among its personnel at least one faculty member with a non-tenure-track appointment.” I encourage you to read the whole rationale, but if you’re pressed for time, at least read the first paragraph, which I quote below:

“Around 30-35% of faculty at St Olaf have non-tenure track (NTT) appointments. This includes both faculty employed at the College for just one or two years before moving on as well as faculty with long-term roles at the College, such as Teaching Specialists, Special Appointments, and other term faculty who contribute to the College over longer time periods. In the fall of 2023, after holding consultations with NTT faculty across the College, the NTT Taskforce requested that the FGC consider ways to ensure that NTT faculty are always represented in faculty governance discussions. The specific request was to modify the composition of standing committees to guarantee places for NTT faculty members. This request comes at a time where we are actively looking for ways to foster greater engagement and building a more inclusive faculty governance structure that ensures all voices can be heard.”

Let’s step ahead now, *dextro pede*.

Sincerely,

Anne H. Groton, FGC Chair