

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
in the City of New York

**Policy and Planning Committee of the Arts and Sciences
(PPC)**

February 13th 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to update on you the activities of the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) during this academic year.

Equity:

We continue to work on equity issues, with work currently underway in Humanities and Social Sciences similar to the work presented for the Natural Sciences at the December A&S faculty meeting. We plan to have reports for all three divisions ready to release by the end of the semester, along with a set of recommendations to begin to address issues identified. Preliminary reports for the Humanities and Social Sciences will be presented at the April A&S Faculty meeting.

Up-coming A&S Meeting (Lecturers, New Department, Voting & PCC):

A PPC sub-committee is making progress on providing recommendations on a suite of issues regarding lecturers and we anticipate an update on this at the February 21st A&S Faculty meeting. We further expect to bring the proposal to establish a Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies to the faculty meeting for discussion and possible vote. Also at the February meeting there will be a discussion of new recommendations for what A&S faculty should vote on, and how they should do it. We also have produced a new document on how PPC members are selected which is posted on the PPC website [here](#). We encourage interested tenured faculty to consider nominating themselves or others.

By-laws:

In response to findings by the Natural Sciences Equity Committee PPC is establishing a sub-committee to look at best practices for bylaws and conflict of interest policies and provide template bylaws that departments, centers and institutes can choose to use.

Academic Senate:

There are vacant seats in all three divisions for tenured A&S faculty. We are looking into many issue concerning A&S representation on the Senate, and we strongly encourage interested faculty members to run for the Senate to represent A&S interests.

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TRAC committee:

The provostial review of TRAC is underway and, in the coming weeks, we look forward to interacting with the faculty committee that the Provost has assembled.

Additional Issues:

We also continue to look at standardizing compensation for department officers (chairs, DUS, DGS), as well as child-care & family policies, improving transparency, setting a minimum salary, and best practices in harassment prevention.

Please continue to contact us with any other issues or concerns.

Best Wishes for Productive Semester,

Maya Tolstoy, Chair

Maria Uriarte, Vice-Chair

Richard Davis

Mamadou Diouf

Eleanor Johnson

Pablo Piccato

Seth Schwartz

Gareth Williams

Andreas Wimmer