2022-2023 Faculty Life Committee Faculty Senate Report

Co-Chairs: Heather Elliott & Alex Tokovinine

As the Co-chairs of the Faculty Life Committee of the UA Faculty Senate, we and our committee members have accomplished several things during the 2022-2023 academic year. Fortunately, our main project was a work-in-progress from previous academic years and we were able to continue to help. Our main accomplishments were the following:

1. We helped finalize the proposal for the expansion of childcare/daycare options on campus. The proposal recognizes that possible expansion of the University’s Child Development Resource Center cannot meet the urgent needs our campus has in this area. Accordingly, we recommended that the University pursue a facility run by a private daycare company. The proposal is currently being acted on by the University and will be voted on by the Board of Trustees this summer. The Committee worked with the Professional Staff Assembly, the Office/Clerical/Technical Staff Assembly, and the Faculty & Staff Benefits Committee. This work would not have been completed without the tireless work of Chapman Greer.

2. The Committee sponsored and shepherded through the Senate statements indicating the deep concern for the safety of endangered scholars and students in Iran (adopted by the Senate in December 2022) and in Turkey and Syria (adopted by the Senate in March 2023).

3. Prompted by the emergency situations faced by scholars from Ukraine, Iran, Turkey, and Syria, the committee is investigating whether the University should join an existing scholars-at-risk network. Several networks exist (Scholars at Risk Network, Scholars Rescue Fund Alliance, Open Society University Network), each having a membership of universities. This is still a work-in-progress.

4. The Committee is investigating the hours of the pool at the Rec Center, which is open during hours inconvenient to families.