AS&E FACULTY MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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MS SULLIVAN: To allow for meeting participants to more easily see those speaking and being introduced today, I’ll ask that most of you to stay on mute and without video for this meeting. When we arrive at the introductions portion of the meeting, I will ask those speaking and being introduced to join us on video. Until then I’ll thank you for your understanding. I’ll ask President Monaco to begin.

PRESIDENT MONACO: For those of you who are new to Tufts, please let me introduce myself and my colleagues. I am Tony Monaco, President of the University, and with me are: Nadine Aubry, Provost and Senior Vice President; Jianmin Qu, Dean of the School of Engineering; and Jim Glaser, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. We have business of August degrees to attend to, so I will ask Dean Glaser to open an Arts and Sciences meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF DEGREES

School of Arts and Sciences

DEAN GLASER: I would like to open a meeting of the School of Arts and Sciences. Members of the faculty, I have the honor to present these candidates from the School of Arts and Sciences. It is the function of this faculty to recommend to the board of trustees all candidates for degrees in the School of Arts and Sciences authorized by the trustees for the award of the degree in August 2020, subject to the usual conditions. I am happy to certify that these candidates have met or will meet the degree requirements, as set forth by this faculty, for the programs in which they have been enrolled.

The total number of bachelors degrees to be recommended is 72. Of those, in Arts and Sciences, there are:
45 Bachelors of Arts candidates
5 Bachelors of Fine Arts candidates
22 Bachelors of Science candidates
Is there a motion to recommend?

MAHONEY: So moved.

DEAN GLASER: I will ask all those in favor to indicate “yes” on the participants tab now. If you’d like to be recorded as opposed you may vote no, and to be recorded as abstaining you may do so by raising your “hand.” I will pause for a just a moment as you vote and will ask Erin to report the results.

MS SULLIVAN: We have 70 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

DEAN GLASER: I now have the sad duty to put forward a motion regarding a Bachelor of Arts degree to be awarded morte obita for Michael David Burger, an undergraduate student who died on June 10, 2020. Mike, a senior in child study and human development, matriculated in 1988
and came back to Tufts after a gap of decades to finish his degree this summer. He was set to complete his degree this August after completing his final course for his major during the second summer session, but he passed away before he was able to finish. It is very sad when one of our students passes away, and while little can be done to soothe the student’s family, friends, and professors in their time of grief, there are some small gestures we can make to memorialize the student and recognize the loss for our community. Honoring a student with a posthumous degree is one such option. “Morte obita” means that death interrupted completion of the degree and is the degree we may award when a student passes away having completed more than half of the degree program. I put forward the motion: that degree requirements of Michael Burger, who passed away on June 10, 2020, be waived, and to recommend to the board of trustees that the Bachelor of Arts be awarded morte obita to Michael Burger, in the School of Arts and Sciences, effective August 2020.

The department of child study and human development has given their support for this motion, and I’ll ask if a representative from the department would like to make the motion to recommend?

PROF SCARLETT: So moved.

DEAN GLASER: I will ask all those in favor to indicate “yes” on the participants tab now. If you’d like to be recorded as opposed you may vote no, and to be recorded as abstaining you may do so by raising your “hand.” I will pause for a just a moment as you vote and will ask Erin to report the results.

MS SULLIVAN: 83 in favor, 0 objections, 0 abstentions.

DEAN GLASER: I would now like to close the School of Arts and Sciences Meeting.

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

PRESIDENT MONACO: I call on Dean Robert Cook to open a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Faculty Meeting.

MS SULLIVAN: I don’t see Bob on the call, if there is no objection I can read the script.

MS SULLIVAN: Members of the faculty, I have the honor to present these candidates from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. It is the function of this faculty to recommend to the board of trustees all candidates for degrees in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as authorized by the trustees for the award of the degree in August 2020, subject to the usual conditions. I am happy to certify that these candidates have met or will meet the degree requirements, as set forth by this faculty, for the programs in which they have been enrolled.
The total number of degrees to be recommended is 69. The numbers of graduate degrees are as follows:
24 Masters of Arts
4 Masters of Fine Arts
12 Masters of Arts in teaching
22 Masters of Science
1 Master of Public Policy
1 Educational Specialist
5 Doctors of Philosophy
Is there a motion to recommend?

PROF MAHONEY: So moved.

MS SULLIVAN: I will ask all those in favor to indicate “yes” on the participants tab now. I will pause for a just a moment as you vote.

We have 70 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

School of Engineering

PRESIDENT MONACO: I call on Dean Qu to open a School of Engineering Faculty Meeting.

DEAN QU: I would like to open a School of Engineering faculty meeting. Members of the faculty, I have the honor to present the degree candidates from the School of Engineering.
It is the function of this faculty to recommend to the board of trustees all candidates for degrees in engineering as authorized by the trustees for the award of the degree in August 2020, subject to the usual conditions. I am happy to certify that these candidates have met or will meet the degree requirements, as set forth by this faculty, for the programs in which they have been enrolled.

The total number of degrees to be recommended is 82. Of those, there are:
11 Bachelors of Science candidates,
35 Masters of Science candidates,
11 Masters of Science in engineering management
15 Masters of Science in innovation and management candidates, and
10 PhD candidates
Is there a motion to recommend?

DEAN SWAN: So moved.

DEAN QU: I will ask all those in favor to indicate “yes” on the participants tab now. I will pause for a just a moment as you vote and will ask Erin to report the results.
MS SULLIVAN: 74 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.

DEAN QU: I would now like to close the School of Engineering Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT MONACO: Thank you. I would now like to open the Arts, Science, & Engineering Faculty Meeting. [drumsticks]

At this time, I would like to propose that the faculty vote on all degrees just voted on by the School of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Engineering. All those in Favor please vote yes via the participant tab, and I will give you a moment.

MS SULLIVAN: 93 in favor, 0 objections, 0 abstentions.

Remarks from President Monaco

PRESIDENT MONACO: Thank you. I’ll give a brief report today. This meeting is the kickoff of the academic year. Welcome to our new faculty members. The past months have been challenging to all of us, with the global pandemic and financial uncertainty, police violence and our need to eradicate structural racism, natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires, and our stress in managing these situations. I am proud of how you have all responded to these challenges. We’ve seen examples of support, leadership, and innovation – the best of Tufts spirit. This fall will be unlike any others, but I am cautiously optimistic. As a student-centered research university, the pandemic forced us to reimagine our teaching in a short time span. We are hosting town halls to provide further updates for the fall. So far we’ve had students returning to campus on all campuses. As of yesterday there were over 11,000 tests completed on over 5,000 individuals, with 7 positives. Isolation and contact tracing protocols are all working successfully. The positivity rate is around 0.16%, among the lowest of the models I showed you. That was most of the out-of-region students, and in-region students are coming next. This summer there has been significant work across Tufts towards our goal of making Tufts an anti-racist institution. We have 5 workstreams announced. We expect rolling recommendations for changes to be implemented ASAP. I will host town halls each month this fall to keep everyone updated on pandemic and DEI workstreams. I look forward to what we will accomplish together and thank you for your dedication to our students and our institution’s mission. I ask Provost Aubry to make her remarks.
Remarks from Provost and Senior Vice President Nadine Aubry

PROVOST AUBRY: Thank you. Congratulations to all of you who were tenured, promoted, and received endowed chair professorships. Welcome to those who are joining Tufts this fall and to new chairs and administrators. Congratulations for degree conferrals and matriculations of new students. Thanks to all of you working so hard to fulfill the needs of our students and prepare for this fall. Thank you for all you do in such an unprecedented time. This first year at Tufts I have enjoyed working with the deans, leadership team, and all of you. I am impressed by your commitment to our students, our top priority, and your dedication to research and civic service, all this despite challenging time. Together we have started important initiatives I look forward to building on with you all. In DEI this year each dean appointed ADDIs who were appointed to a cabinet on diversity, equity, and inclusion chaired by our CDOs. Thanks to the deans and those of you in these new roles. I look forward to the cabinet recommending actions. We have 2 new directors of D&I education at Tufts. I am eager to work with the deans on awarding Provost Leadership Fellows with leadership in D&I as an explicit criterion for selection and an integral part of education. I will be working with all of you on the 5 workstreams Tony described. We are committed to taking action for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive university at all levels. A global advisory council with representatives from all schools will focus on strategies for Tufts as a global university. Our second Global Month this year has replaced Global Week. We will increase seed funding through Springboard, continue our initiatives in data science with DISC, further establish the Tufts Center for State Policy Analysis, address challenges facing society such as mental health and Covid-19, work with the artificial intelligence initiative, and continue to work with the Tufts Health Sciences Institute. I will work with the faculty senate and T&P committee, and with deans on how to recognize faculty and staff. We will work together on defining what a Tufts education means, broadening its impact, addressing the world’s needs, and continuing the Tufts Story initiative to encourage students to design a personal learning path and tell us their stories in our video contest. The new academic year will be challenging, and I ask for your patience as we navigate this uncertain time. I know you will continue to deliver the best possible education to our students, and engage in research and civic engagement. Thank you for all you do. Together we will remain strong. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

INTRODUCTIONS

MS SULLIVAN: Thank you, Nadine. We will now begin the introductions portion of the meeting. As mentioned at the start of the meeting, to better allow attendees today to see those being introduced, I’ll ask that you stay on mute and without video unless you are a speaker or being introduced. Also, for the remainder of the meeting, the meeting chat will act as a virtual welcome and congratulations card and if you’d like to privately or publicly welcome or congratulate your colleagues, please feel free. I’ll ask the President to start us off with the introductions of new senior administrators. I’ll ask those being introduced to join us by video if they are able.
New Administrators

PRESIDENT MONACO: Over the summer we made a few appointments. Dr. Michael Jordan is our University Infection Control Health Director. He is responsible for building and sustaining a university-wide infection prevention health program. He supports safety of all our students, faculty, and staff. He coordinates data analytics, the testing program, contact tracing, and reporting and compliance. He comes from the medical school where he is an assistant professor. He was course director for infectious disease in the division of geographic medicine and infectious disease. He was the co-chair of WHO HIV drug resistance surveillance and epidemiology working group. With the Covid pandemic, he expanded his focus to include Covid, and leads a joint effort between Tufts and Tufts Medical Center to build a biorepository and represents Tufts Medical Center in a statewide consortium. He is leading efforts to establish a Covid-19 database. This will benefit researchers and will foster collaborations. He reports to Mike Howard and joins our Covid coordinating committee.

Marty Ray is our new chief of staff. He comes from Harvard where he worked for 8 years supporting advancement and engagement operations. He earned his doctorate from University of Southern California and studied engagement practices of ethnic minority alumni by higher education institutions.

Sara Judge is our vice president for development. She manages fundraising and campaign functions, corporate relations, planned giving, and annual funds. She was deputy vice president at Princeton for 3 years. She reports to Eric Johnson.

Kim Ryan is our vice president for human resources. She has experience as VP at Campbell Soup and Pepperidge Farm Inc, where she improved talent acquisition and made a global diversity and inclusion strategy for Campbell Soup. She is co-chair of our institutional audit and targeted action workstream.

Our new university chaplain is the Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger, an ordained minister with evangelical Lutheran church. She has experience in chaplaincy and student affairs. At Illinois Wesleyan University, she was university chaplain and associate dean for students. Our previous interim chaplain will help with onboarding and act as a resource.

I am thankful to the search staff bringing these excellent people to our university.

DEAN GLASER: I introduce Camille Lizarríbar, dean of student affairs. She supervises residential life, campus life, health and wellness, and the career center. Given her role in planning this year, you may have met her already. She is originally from Puerto Rico and has a BA from Brandeis, a PhD from Harvard in comparative literature, as well as a law degree from
Harvard. She is fluent in 4 languages. She comes from Yale where she was dean of student affairs. She has also taught at Yale and Harvard in law and literature. She has worked as an attorney. In the last two months, she has impressed everyone with her work. Camille, give us your impression of Tufts so people can see you on the screen.

DEAN LIZARRIBAR: I am happy to be here and invite you to be in touch if I can be of help to you. My first impression of Tufts is in a pandemic, so it’s unique, but I am impressed by the hard work and collaboration. The creative approach to problem solving has been wonderful. The sense of community has reaffirmed my coming here. It’s an intense way to meet but I am truly impressed by everyone here.

MS SULLIVAN: Thank you. I now call on Dean Glaser to announce new named professorships and faculty appointments in the School of Arts and Sciences.

New Named Professorships in A&S

DEAN GLASER: In the last few years we’ve brought new named professorships to Tufts. So I have many to announce today. I’ll start by announcing the new A&S named Professorships:

Stephanie Badde, Stibel Family Assistant Professor
Shan Jiang, Eileen Fox Aptman J90 and Lowell Aptman Assistant Professor
Sara Johnson, Evans Family Professor
Gina Kuperberg, Dennett-Stibel Professor of Cognitive Sciences
Michael Levin, (Vannevar Bush Professor and) Distinguished Professor
Zarin Machanda, Usen Family Assistant Professor
Maggie McMillan, JRN Family Professor of International Relations
Philip Shushkov, Fotis A37, AG39 Assistant Professor

If you aren’t yet aware of the reactions tab below the video, I’m happy you point you to the clapping feature, which does seem appropriate as we hold our meetings this way. Please join me in congratulating these faculty.

New/Interim Department Chairs and Program Directors in A&S

DEAN GLASER: We have some new and interim department chairs and program directors for Academic Year 2020-2021. They are:

Nancy Baker
Occupational Therapy
Larry Ford
Physics and Astronomy
Kerri Greenidge
Center for Race and Democracy
Brian Hatcher
Religion
Charles Inouye
International Literary and Cultural Studies (ILCS)
Now I’ll turn it back over to Erin for the introductions of our newest A&S Faculty Colleagues.

**New Full-time Faculty Members in A&S**

**MS SULLIVAN:** Thank you, Jim. I’ll be calling on the Department Chairs and Program Directors to introduce these new faculty in alphabetical order by department. Again, I’ll invite our speakers and new faculty to join us by video.

**PROF UTZ:** In chemistry, we are thrilled to welcome 2 new assistant professors. Ira Caspari comes to Tufts from UMass Boston, where she was a postdoctoral research associate. She had the daunting task of interviewing with both chemistry and education. Her work is on understanding student misconceptions in the study of organic chemistry. She handled this situation adroitly with enthusiasm and intellect. She will study student learning on a new NSF grant. She will draw on her teaching experience as she teaches Chem 2 this fall. She also has an appointment in the education department.

Our second colleague is Philip Shushkov. He joins us from CalTech where he was a postdoctoral fellow. He will be the Fotis A37, AG39 Assistant Professor. He earned his PhD at Yale. He is a computational chemist studying materials chemistry using quantum computing, and performing computational studies of chemistry on interfaces. This is important for chemical sensing and transforming chemicals in lab and industry. His quantum computing work captured our attention. He will do calculations on materials to study the physical heart of materials in quantum computing. As a high school student, he participated in the Chemistry Olympiad where he solved the particle in a box problem and it sparked his interest in studying chemistry. He will share that enthusiasm with students in Chem 31 this fall.

**PROF BERS:** In CSHD, we are happy to welcome Theo Klimstra as a new lecturer. He comes from the Netherlands, and his first language is Frisian, which is supposedly the closest to English. I can’t wait to hear him speak it. He likes speed skating on lakes, he bikes, and likes cheese and stroopwafels, and invites you to come visit in the department.

**PROF RICHARDS:** In economics, we welcome Steve Cicala. He is in Europe right now. He comes to us from the University of Chicago. I will add to his bio that his work on regulation in electricity markets is important and influential in policy circles. He is a renowned scholar and excellent teacher, we welcome him to Tufts.

**PROF FYLER:** In English, we welcome Kimberly Bain. She is from New York City, and she went to the same high school as Sonia Hofkosh. Her BA is from Amherst, and her PhD from
Princeton. We were interested in her work in digital humanities, and her study of breath and breathing in Black culture, history, and literature, which is even more relevant now. We knew we would be lucky to get her, and here she is. We welcome her.

PROF ORIANS: In Environmental Studies, it’s my pleasure to introduce Leone Brown. She’s been at Tufts for a few years now, but is joining our program this fall. What makes her special is her love of natural history, passion for conservation biology and data science and interest in the arts. She is a four-season cyclist and once did a 550-mile sculpture ride. She has a species named after her, which is quite an honor. Her conservation work was inspired by working on a Mauritian island. There was an oil spill this summer and she is returning to this idea about educating our students. We welcome Lee to Tufts.

PROF RUANE: For math, I have 4 introductions to do. We have 3 new Norbert Wiener Assistant Professors and one full professor. I’ll stick to the fun stuff. I asked them what their wrestler entrance song would be, what actor would play them in a movie, what Olympic sport they’d do, what historical person would be their imaginary friend. They didn’t really answer, but I have some fun facts.

Sebastian Bozlee just graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He likes breakdancing, and performed in college. I hope his students get to see him breakdance on zoom this semester.

Natasa Dragovic comes from the University of Texas at Austin. She just drove up here and enjoys traveling, she has been to 48 countries. She participated in the international astronomy and astrophysics Olympiad. She is president of the US branch of this organization. She has done a directed reading program and we hope she will help with our program here.

Arkadz Kirschtein is finishing a postdoc at UMass Amherst. He joins us in January. He grew up in Belarus and likes snowboarding. He plays guitar, we could start a department band. We welcome you.

Kasso Okoudjou joins us from the University of Maryland. He’s been here since July. His alternative career choice would have been a professional footballer, I hope he’ll join our soccer team. He did not shave his head for four months during Covid, and found he could reproduce his college hairstyle. Welcome.

PROF BAKER: In occupational therapy, we are fortunate to have Jasmine Mote joining us. She is doing research on the social and emotional difficulties of people living with serious mental illness, an underserved area. She hopes to develop health interventions to help people participate more fully in society. We are glad to have her. She lives with her husband, dog, and cat. She spends free time trying to recreate desserts from the Great British Bake-off.
PROF SOMMERS: In psychology, we welcome Stephanie Badde. She is a cognitive scientist who studies cross-modal perception. How does the mind know where the body is being touched? We are excited she is joining us and glad the visa rules allowed her to come. Regardless of what the government says, we are excited to welcome all our international colleagues. She likes bunnies, dogs, beer, bars, and hiking.

PROF JOSEPH: In sociology, we welcome Anjuli Fahlberg and Caleb Scoville. Anjuli was previously a lecturer, and is now an assistant professor. She is a great teacher and does interesting research on a favela in Rio de Janiero. She has won several awards and her work is under contract with Oxford University Press.

Caleb is an environmental sociologist, making the long drive from California. He studied an endangered species of fish that was not charismatic, and he can work with the groups of people on both sides of the issue and study the future of this species.

PROF MANJAPRA: In RCD, we are pleased to welcome Kerri Greenidge and Sarah Fong. Sarah is an assistant professor in RCD. She joins us from USC. She brings a great wealth of scholarship to enrich our university. She studied settler colonialism and social welfare for her dissertation. During lockdown, she has taken up bicycling and acrylic painting. When it ends, she hopes to travel to Spain.

Kerri has been a lecturer at Tufts since 2018. Her research explores literature and Black radical political consciousness. Her book Black Radical was published to great acclaim. During lockdown, she has been gardening, and when it ends she hopes to travel to Spain as well.

PROF NATHANS: In TDPS, we welcome JP Pizzuti as our lecturer in technical theater. She joined Tufts in 2017 as an assistant technical director and has held positions with various stage companies. We are lucky to have JP, their teaching and theater experience are excellent.

PROF GUZMAN: We welcome Emily Gephart as a full-time lecturer at SMFA. She has a PHD from MIT. She has taught here before so she may be familiar. She studies how art influences social spheres.

MS SULLIVAN: Thank you. I now call on Dean Qu to announce new Professorships and new faculty appointments in the School of Engineering.

New Named Professorships in Engineering

DEAN QU: I’d like to start by announcing the new Engineering named Professorships.
New Department Chairs in Engineering

DEAN QU: We have one new department chair for Academic Year 2020-2021, so I'll welcome Jason Rife as the new Chair of Mechanical Engineering. Jason has been with Tufts for many years and served many committees. Congratulations on this appointment. I’ll now turn it back to Erin for the introduction of our new faculty.

New Full-time Faculty in Engineering

PROF FISHER: In computer science, we welcome 3 new colleagues. Bert Huang comes from Virginia Tech. He studies machine learning. He applied to Tufts as a student and was rejected, but is happy to come here now.

Dave Lillethun comes from University of Seattle. He grew up in NJ and has lived in many places before coming back to the northeast. He likes fencing and has an IMDB page from working in tech roles on films.

Dan Votipka is on vacation, but joins us in January. His wife is a medical professional and he has a young daughter. He likes Duke basketball.

PROF MILLER: In electrical and computer engineering, we welcome two new assistant professors. Marco Donato has a PhD from Brown and did a postdoc at Harvard. His expertise is in energy efficient hardware systems, with some work in machine learning. He is an avid guitar player, this will be great for our department band.

Aseema Mohanty has a PhD from Cornell and did a postdoc at Columbia. She works in optics and photonics. She was the last person I shook hands with prior to Covid lockdown. I went to a whiskey zoom event and saw Aseema there, she is also an avid artist and chef.

MS SULLIVAN: That concludes our AS&E faculty meeting for today. I want to thank you all for joining us today. Normally President Monaco would have the pleasure of asking us all to join him in Alumnae Lounge where we would honor AS&E faculty who were promoted at the Schools in the last year. This year, we hope you stay on the zoom and join us in raising a glass to these colleagues. We will have a short break. If you need a moment for the restroom or to grab
a celebratory beverage, we will take two minutes now. So please feel free to turn off your video and audio and we will resume this meeting in two minutes.

This meeting is therefore adjourned, and I’ll ask the President if he would like to close the meeting!

PRESIDENT MONACO: [drumsticks] Adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Sullivan
Secretary of the Faculty for Arts, Sciences & Engineering

These minutes are not verbatim but a summary of the statements and conversations that occurred.