

**Spring 2009 Process Overview**  
**Intellectual Life Discussions**  
**Faculty Governance Steering Committee**  
**February 13, 2009**

**I. Guiding Principles:**

During spring 2009 we will engage in a process that involves iterative generation and refinement of proposals related to President Casey's charges. The process should be informed by each of the following:

- The discussions and surveys that were completed this past fall and winter.
- A desire to build on DePauw's significant strengths while addressing its weaknesses.
- The President's charges.
- Other issues that may arise as extensions of the President's charges (everything is on the table).
- Local experts with respect to specific topics.
- Relevant reading from outside of DePauw.
- Historical reading from within DePauw.
- Regular, continued, and ongoing input from various groups including:
  - Voting faculty (including both tenured and junior faculty), and part-time faculty,
  - Staff, especially those with connections to curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, and
  - Students.

The process will be multi-staged with opportunities for broad discussion at each stage.

**II. A Proposal Driven Process:**

The process will be driven by a series of proposals related to intellectual life at DePauw. As described in the next section, proposals will be solicited from several groups in order to seed discussion. However, proposals are also invited from any group which consists of at least three individuals. Proposals will be submitted to the Chair of the faculty with names attached. However they will be shared with the community with the author's names removed, in the spirit of blind review. Once submitted the ideas in a proposal will be used to inform an ongoing process. We do not expect that any single proposal will survive unchanged. Instead, we envision a process whereby ideas from various proposals are combined, refined, evolved, and improved.

Each submission must present a rationale that relates the proposal to the broad improvement of intellectual life at DePauw. In addition, each proposal should address some or all of the President's charges. Additional issues may also be considered in the context of extending or supporting the proposal's response to the charges.

We anticipate that some proposals will address broad topics such as how DePauw should define itself or how an integrating vision can be applied across all of the charges. Other proposals may be narrower, perhaps limiting discussion to a particular charge. It bears repeating that all proposals, even those which

are narrow in scope, must include a rationale that relates the proposal to the broad improvement of intellectual life at DePauw.

The FGSC knows that some proposals are already emerging and encourages the authors to form a team of at least three people to refine and submit these ideas. For example, community members have shared ideas for proposals related to topics such as the formation of a teaching and learning center, the creation of self-designed interdisciplinary minors, the role of interdisciplinary programs, the creation of an intellectual commons, and the implementation of a capstone day. We are also aware of a more general proposal related to the role of scholarship in our intellectual life. Both types of proposals, general and specific, are welcomed as long as they conform to the other guidelines outlined in this section.

Each proposal is limited to two typed pages and should be submitted as an e-mail attachment (in Word format - either version of Word is acceptable) to [dberque@depauw.edu](mailto:dberque@depauw.edu) no later than 5pm on March 11th. The page limit is intentionally very tight in order to discourage proposals from delving into low-level implementation details. Proposals will be acknowledged within 24 hours and must adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document in order to be considered. Once received, proposals will be stripped of author names and will be made broadly available via Moodle.

### **III. Solicited and Contributed Proposals:**

- **Integrated Committee Teams:**

Because the full set of charges cross the boundaries of our normal committee structures the FGSC has asked CAPP (Committee on Academic Policy and Planning), MAO (Management of Academic Operations), and SLAAC (Student Life and Academic Atmosphere Committee) to meet jointly on Monday 2/16 to form several small cross-committee teams. Appropriate representation, including representation from the School of Music, will be considered as these teams are formed. Each team should have at least three members. Each team is charged with developing a proposal that takes an integrated view to addressing all five charges using the guiding principles outlined above.

- **Student Teams:**

The FGSC will ask the Student Body President to form one or two student teams. Each team is asked to develop a proposal using the guiding principles outlined above. The student government proposal(s) may address all of the charges or any subset of the charges. While the structure of these teams is up to the students, the FGSC recommends that the student representatives to CAPP, MAO, and SLAAC should each be on one of the student teams.

- **Staff Teams:**

The FGSC requests that the staff form one or two teams. Each staff team is asked to develop a proposal using the guiding principles outlined above. The staff proposal(s) may address all of the charges or any subset of the charges. The FGSC has asked Jana Grimes to appoint these teams and the FGSC recommends that each staff team consist of at least three staff members.

- **Academic Affairs Team:**

The FGSC requests that Neal Abraham, Vice President of Academic Affairs, assemble a team of academic administrators to develop a proposal using the guiding principles outlined above. The Academic Affairs team is charged with developing a proposal that takes an integrated view to addressing all five charges using the guiding principles outlined above. While the structure of this team is up to the VPAA, the FGSC recommends that the team consist of at least three academic administrators including the VPAA.

- **Student Life Team:**

The FGSC requests that Cindy Babington, Vice President for Student Life, assemble a team of Student Life professionals to develop a proposal using the guiding principles outlined above. The Student Life proposal may address all of the charges or any subset of the charges. While the structure of this team is up to the Vice President for Student Life, the FGSC recommends that the team consist of at least three Student Life professionals including the Vice President for Student Life.

- **Contributed Teams:**

Submissions from additional teams are welcomed. These teams may be formed from academic departments, other administrative units, or may include representation that spans departments and groups (students, faculty, staff, and administration). Each team, which must consist of at least three individuals, is asked to develop a proposal using the guiding principles outlined above. Each contributed team may address all of the charges or any subset of the charges. Feedback suggests that some contributed teams will wish to host meetings to discuss specific ideas with a broader group. Please indicate this interest to Dave Berque as soon as possible.

The membership of the Integrated Committee Teams, the Student Team(s), the Staff Team(s), the Academic Affairs Team, and the Student Life Team should be reported to Dave Berque by 2/23/09 so the team memberships can be listed publically. Although they are not required to do so, contributed teams are welcome to report their membership and topic(s) to Dave Berque by this date if they want their membership to be listed so that others can communicate with them.

#### **IV. Time Line**

##### **Friday 2/13**

Communication from the FGSC regarding process.  
Initial set of materials made available via Moodle.

##### **Monday 2/16**

Joint CAPP/SLAAC/MAO meeting to form cross-committee teams.

**Monday 2/23**

Named teams will be announced.

**Wednesday 3/11**

Written proposals due following submission procedures outlined above.

**Friday 3/13 through Friday 3/20**

Feedback and discussion week, possibly to include a retreat on Saturday 3/14.

**Saturday 3/21 through Sunday 3/29**

Spring Break

**Monday 3/30 and Beyond**

Elected faculty committees begin the process of evolving, integrating, and refining ideas.

Additional opportunities for campus input to guide next iteration of the process.

Additional details will be provided at a later date.