

Date: October 27, 2014
To: DePauw University Faculty
From: The Faculty Governance Steering Committee (FGSC)
Subject: Discussion topics during fall open meetings and faculty meetings

Faculty Questions Emerging for Fall Discussions:

FGSC has been evaluating what can (and can't) be done through the governance process to address issues that have come up in the last two faculty meetings and faculty conversations. In particular, FGSC has been coordinating the broad work of our governance committees in information gathering to help us move from simply discussing these issues to action. Rest assured, FGSC's vision is to have committees bring forward options for full discussion, before moving to vote on any items that fall within our governance structure.

To support broad based well-informed input from all interested colleagues we have planned the following topics for conversation. Early on our conversations are likely to be more focused on input gathering and dissemination. As we move through these conversations, we expect to move toward more discussion of the pros and cons of various models and options.

We urge our colleagues to participate in these conversations as much as possible. When your schedule doesn't allow you to attend please touch base with others in order to understand the nuances of the broad conversation. As a committee, FGSC members have discovered how much our own thinking changes as a result of valuable conversations we are having with each other, with our respective committees, with the many administrative structures that support the issues we are discussing.

Members of FGSC hope that as our community moves through these conversations, we remember a couple key things. First, a robust conversation that is professionally respectful of other points of view will allow us to make the best progress. Second, that every member of our community is working hard. Third, individuals developing ideas for our consideration are doing their best to keep focused on greater good and to consider options within, often, difficult constraints. And finally, given a community as professionally diverse as a university, not every decision that gets made this year can possibly be universally valued, still we are confident we can bring forward change that recognizes faculty as one of the major stakeholders in the University.

Tentative Schedule of Presentations and Conversations:

FGSC notes that as our conversations evolve we recognize that these plans will likely refine and evolve as well.

- Wednesday October 29, 4-5:30 pm, Julian Auditorium –financial issues
 - Our Committee on Administration (COA), Faculty Governance Steering Committee (FGSC) and Internal Grants Committee (IGC) will jointly be getting a briefing on the impact of budgetary constraints Tuesday. We have arranged this Wednesday meeting to be able to share that knowledge with the faculty so we can all begin to think about the trade-offs a University must consider.
 - This conversation will primarily informational but we welcome conversation.
 - We encourage colleagues to move from this event to one of the many other campus events happening at the same time or shortly thereafter that celebrate a variety of other contributions to the community.

- Monday November 3, 5:00-6:00 pm (after the close of regular business) – University governance
 - Brian Casey will share the broader features of University governance and how Faculty governance can contribute to strategic planning initiatives.

- We will discuss models for faculty representation within strategic planning conversations.
 - In thinking about the conversation colleagues may want to review [DePauw's 2020 Plan](#).
- Thursday November 13, 11:30 am-1 pm –Faculty Development
 - This conversation is an opportunity for everyone to share the aspects of faculty development that best supports their work.
 - We want to discuss not only internal grant support but also the broad umbrella of faculty development.
 - We recommend colleagues review the [2012 Review of Faculty Development Programs](#) undertaken by the AY 2011-12 Faculty Development Committee.
 - We recommend colleagues review remarks (and corresponding slides) by VPAA Stimpert at the September 2014 faculty meeting found in the [September minutes](#).
 - FGSC/IGC will have a single sheet summary of options for colleagues to provide feedback about how effectively those preliminary options might support their work.
- Monday November 24, 11:30 am-12:30 pm, Julian Auditorium – Faculty governance, part one
 - FGSC will present proposals developed from the above conversations, FGSC meetings and research on best practices for faculty representation on the Board of Trustees. This meeting is to gain input from faculty to refine the options.
 - FGSC will present a couple proposals developed from the above conversations, FGSC meetings and research on best practices with regard to faculty participation in University strategic and budgetary planning for colleagues to provide input that helps FGSC refine the options.
- Monday December 1, 4:00-6:00 pm (after the close of regular business, UB Ballroom) – Continue governance discussion
 - FGSC will release revised plans based on feedback from Nov 24 with agenda for continued discussion.
 - FGSC will present some options for changes to our broader governance structure resulting from FGSC work over this semester, faculty conversations, and research on best practice for discussion.
- Monday February 2, 4:00-6:00 pm (faculty meeting, UB Ballroom)
 - Advance notice of governance related by-laws changes we appear to be ready to enact beginning with AY15-16.
- Weekend of February 13-15 is February Board of Trustees Meeting
 - Anticipate continued conversations with the Board of Trustees building on October.
 - FGSC has been invited to this meeting.