

Governance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Dec. 1, 2015

Present: David Alvarez, Bridget Gourley, Glen Kuecker, Marnie McInnes, Lori Miles, Pam Propsom, Scott Thede, Sheryl Tremblay
Guests: Dan Gurnon, Lydia Marshall, Amity Reading (for Ad Hoc OURSCA Committee)

Ad Hoc OURSCA (Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity) Group. The Governance Committee invited representatives from the Ad Hoc OURSCA Committee to meet to discuss their proposal. We thanked them for their work and indicated that we appreciate their enthusiasm.

Q: What do you want from Governance Committee?

A: Official OK from faculty governance system to have a committee. They've gotten approval from administration. They want to go through faculty governance channels to have buy-in there.

Q: How would you get expressions of interest from other faculty and get others involved in the OURSCA Committee or Group?

A: They want to reach out to the divisions to have a representative from each curricular area. "If we build it, they will come." If we make this more visible, more faculty might get involved.

Q: Do you see this becoming a permanent committee, with faculty elections and appointments?

A: They do want it to become permanent part of governance. They want to create an Office of Undergraduate Research and a corresponding committee that gives input to the director of that office. Seven of 13 schools in GLCA already have offices of undergraduate research.

Q: Has this group already decided how integrating research will be implemented? Is it extra-, co-, curricular? Is this still open?

A: Still part of the discussion. Could also involve the integration of the practicum component into particular majors. Would rely on partnerships with the Hubbard Center.

Q: Would you consider internships part of this?

A: Depends on the discipline; would work with departments to do whatever is appropriate for that particular area. For example, maybe a journalism internship would count. A student doing an off-campus research experience might be better served by going through both OURSCA and Hubbard Center rather than just the Hubbard Center. Another thing that's not happening in a concerted way is encouraging students to attend research conferences to present.

Q: How would this interface with FDC?

A: FDC addresses student-faculty research grants, but there really is no place to address primarily *student* research. They want to avoid being redundant. See OURSCA as a “connector” between faculty and students interested in research; getting more students to expect a research experience and having them actively approaching faculty rather than just vice versa. How this would actually be done is one of the things the committee would need to discuss.

Q: Do we hire another person in the administration to do this? Is there release time? How do other institutions handle this?

A: Advice they’ve received is that you really want faculty rather than administrators heading this. University is trying to hire a grants person. That individual could be the co-director of OURSCA. Release time would really still need to be discussed. Ongoing conversations about 3-2 and library renovation (which could produce the space). At other institutions, it’s often a faculty member with 1 course release and a staff member with varying degrees of involvement.

Q: Why not mix this in with the Hubbard Center?

A: This isn’t just about off-campus activity. The Hubbard Center also doesn’t currently address “creative activity.”

Q: There are concerns about additional costs, but could this potentially save some money in eliminating redundancy (e.g., every Honors Program has a staff assistant)?

A: Yes. Could be more efficient to have someone in charge of integrating a variety of activities that often fall between the cracks.

Q: What’s the relationship between OURSCA and faculty development process (e.g., Faculty Development Coordinator, Dean of Faculty)?

A: The OURSCA group not trying to discourage faculty research without students. They want to be a support for connecting students and faculty in research. Grants Writer could help faculty be aware of funding out there and help them apply, but this person also would have responsibilities outside of this.

Q: Three worries:

1. Committee membership is currently self-selected. We would feel better if before proceeding there was an open call for other interested faculty. (The OURSCA folks seemed receptive to this.)
2. Also self-selected charge.
3. Does it make sense to have an Advisory Board to office that doesn’t exist? Does this become a backdoor process that others can use to get what they want? Would prefer the term Task Force or Working Group (they were fine with that).

Q: How do we deal with potential greater interest from students than faculty can serve?

A: If the reward and recognition structure were different, it might attract greater faculty interest. It would be good to have an office to keep track of this; advocate for compensation and support for faculty and students in research.

Other suggestions

--Survey faculty to see what research is already being done.

--Presidential search document states that we're looking to hire a new president who can lead us in promoting a "teacher scholar model"; how does OURSCA group fit with that? (This might be quite different from Flex Six or 3-2 model).

Discussion

What did we think? They seem to be open to our suggestions—broader faculty representation, open to how undergraduate research and creative activity would be implemented.

Should this be part of the regular governance structure? Might be good so that its not a "hidden" committee and would be seen as a regular type of service. Would have broader representation.

What role do we play in linking this up to other structures (e.g., FDC, Hubbard Center)? Links practicum to curriculum. Links faculty and administration. Could streamline staff positions. Helps to coordinate activities. How would the Grants Writer link up with the Hubbard Center?

Does Governance Committee have any authority over this? Could create an ad hoc appointed committee. Could move to a standing committee if it takes off. To put in the bylaws we would have to give advance notice at faculty meeting. We don't have the power to create an Office of Undergraduate Research, but we can endorse their proposal. Work *with* the Hubbard Center rather than this being *within* the Hubbard Center.

People felt it was a tad premature for an official committee, but we would like to open up the OURSCA membership to other faculty members. Encourage them to keep doing what they're doing. They didn't come to us for the official creation of a new committee in the Handbook and governance structure, but they wanted to make sure they went through the faculty official governance group. We want to encourage them with their continued work and have them invite other faculty members to join their group to get broader representation.

Other business. We will meet with VPAA Anne Harris next week. Our topic will be what she is planning to present at the Winter Board of Trustees meeting. We also can talk with her about our meeting with the OURSCA group and get her input in terms of structure, funding, 3-2/Flex Six. Last week we generated a list of topics we would like to jointly work on with Anne in the future and the Governance Committee gave permission for Pam to send that list to Anne.

Minutes. The minutes of previous meeting were not only approved, but were deemed "beautiful" and "moving."