

Committee on Administration Minutes for December 2, 2014

Present: Francesca Seaman (chair), Jeff Gropp, Larry Stimpert, Michael Roberts, Scott Spiegelberg, David Worthington, Meryl Altman (recorder).

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Francesca distributed the three handouts about faculty governance that were discussed at the December 1 faculty meeting, which included a set of “guiding principles” from FGSC, several possibly models for change, and the “Proposed Committees of the Administration” document from President Casey.

Our group is generally in support of the President’s proposal. Various members noted details that are still to be resolved, including where proposals (and reports) to the Strategic Planning Committee would come from, and how they could be brought; the structure and specific charge of the “cousin committee”; what terms like “timely” and “long range planning” would really mean in practice; and how the faculty members of the committee would be selected. On this last point, we discussed the pros and cons of various models: the “division-based” idea would work well for the sciences, but other divisions really don’t represent intellectually coherent/ functional perspectives in the same way; starting from a list with all names of faculty on it has a strong appeal, but many of us don’t know many of our colleagues well. The goals are both wide participation and perception of legitimacy. Do specific constituencies (sciences/arts/humanities, assistant/associate/full professors, etc.) need direct representation, or would it be sufficient to elect all members at large by popular vote? Good communication with other committees and entities will also be important. Is there a continuing role for FGSC? For the meeting of Chairs?

Francesca asked us all to provide written feedback as well; we’ll meet during finals with the President and FGSC.

We then turned our attention to Larry Stimpert’s proposed revision of the committee’s draft handbook revision regarding post-tenure review. Discussion of this will continue (and hopefully conclude) at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Meryl