

Faculty Governance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Nov. 10, 2015

Present: David Alvarez, Bridget Gourley, Glen Kuecker, Marnie McInnes, Lori Miles, Pam Propsom, Scott Thede, Sheryl Tremblay

Guests: Craig Carter (Student Body President), Anna Gawlik (VP for Student Life)

Our student guests indicated that students have been planning since the summer to have another Day of Dialogue. Student Government and Renee Madison had been planning for a half-day (4-8 pm) on April 6, with a structure similar to a White Privilege Conference that Anna attended. They received a lot of negative feedback from students, wanting this to be an entire day and including the entire student body (late afternoon would exclude student-athletes). Craig and Anna realize that cancelling a day of class every year may not be sustainable. Their idea for next semester's program is that it would start with a keynote speaker; then there would be workshops for the entire campus community (faculty, staff, and students) divided by different topics, and people could choose what topic to engage in. The workshops would be repeated so that people could attend more than one. These workshops would be led by outside facilitators. At the end of the day there would be caucuses, separated by faculty, students, staff, and then there would be a debriefing. One suggestion is that the rest of the day would be something fun and positive, although not all students are in favor of this last component. The students would see this as a sustainable model for this day being integrated into the university calendar every year.

We asked what assistance they are requesting from the Governance Committee. They would like help in achieving the cancellation of classes on April 6. They have already checked the university calendar and there are no special events planned for that day (except for softball and lacrosse games). In addition, they would like faculty representatives on the planning committee. Some suggested that this seems a task more appropriate to the Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC); Craig sits on that committee and is in communication with them.

We recognize that the Governance Committee does not have the power to cancel classes, but we could bring this to the faculty for a vote at the December Faculty Meeting. We asked the students for a short written description of their proposal, which we could then provide to the faculty at-large at Faculty Meeting. We also suggested that it would be helpful if it included an overarching goal for the end of the day with an action plan for follow-up steps.

Other issues that arose during the discussion: How to balance academic freedom/free speech and respect for others; difficulty of having a genuine dialogue for fear of being labeled as racist or sexist, etc. This should probably be coordinated with the Course and Calendar Oversight Committee; if this is to occur every year, we

need it integrated into academic calendar. Changing day of the week every year so doesn't always hit the same classes.

We thanked our guests for the good work they've already done and excused them so we could discuss a plan to respond to their requests. 1.) Faculty representation on the planning committee. We decided it would be a good idea to send a joint email request with the Diversity and Equity Committee asking for faculty volunteers to serve on the planning committee. DEC would then make appointments. We suggest that there be some representation from DEC on the planning committee, but this can be coordinated with the student planning committee. 2.) Should we cancel class? The Governance Committee endorses the idea cancelling classes and having a day committed to this. We decided that the Governance Committee would present this proposal at the December Faculty Meeting and Craig Carter can be present to answer questions, if faculty votes to allow him to speak. The Governance Committee should be to be prepared to present the proposal and respond to questions, if the faculty vote down allowing the student to speak. This will be on the Faculty Governance portion of the agenda and will include the written student proposal in the appendix.

Action. Pam will contact Craig Carter and Anna Gawlik to share our ideas and request their brief written proposal to share with faculty. She will also contact DEC asking if they would be willing to send a joint email with the Governance Committee soliciting faculty volunteers for appointment to the DePauw Dialogue 2.0 planning committee.

Nov. 17 Open Meeting—At the last Chairs' Meeting there was a question regarding whether Power/Privilege/Diversity is the right title for this new general education requirement. What is the requirement? One faculty member concern was that the title was daunting: does a course have to address *all three* components? There was actually more concern about the "International Experience" requirement, which was not clearly defined. FDC is planning workshops for the summer so people can get together and maybe their collaborative work could help to define and "norm" the courses. There seem to be at least two issues—language for catalog (which can be succinct) and a set of guidelines for faculty about what courses meeting this requirement should entail or address (like the guidelines that exist for W courses). The Curriculum Committee sees itself as responsible for the former. Who is taking responsibility for the latter? Would it be the Course and Calendar Oversight Committee? We would still like to have some discussion about what we expect of these courses.

We suggested that this could be a topic for the Nov. 17 Open Meeting. We could have representatives from FDC, Curriculum, and Course and Calendar Oversight Committees. We would view this as an opportunity for these committees to elicit faculty input so that the committees can then to do their parts regarding this new requirement.

Action. Pam will contact these committees and ask if they will have members present who can participate in the Open Meeting.

Ideas for future meetings. 1.) Presidential Search document has “interesting” paragraph about president “guiding” our discussion of a “teacher-scholar” model, but is this inconsistent with ongoing discussion of “flexible six” model?
2.) RAS, diversity, Opportunity Hires.