

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
Oct. 6, 2015

Present: David Alvarez, Mark Kannowski, Bridget Gourley, Marnie McInnes, Lori Miles, Pam Propsom, Scott Thede, Sheryl Tremblay. Guests for part of the meeting: Raj Bellani (Dean of Experiential Learning and Career Planning), Anne Harris (VPAA).

Reports from Committees

Review (Kannowski): Review Committee is still short one person. As long as they have a quorum they can still do work, but last week they had to cease work because people had to leave the meeting for various reasons. If they don't get two people to serve next semester, they will be under quorum for doing any reviews for the English Department. How can we as a committee put pressure on our colleagues to serve?

Student Academic Life (Alvarez)—The committee met with representatives from Multicultural Life to learn that some students are going hungry (mostly students of color) because they chose the least expensive Bon Appetit option and it wasn't sufficient for students who don't have other dining options. David reported that Christopher Welles is already working to address this issue.

Proposal for a Hubbard Center Faculty Advisory Board

Anne Harris and Raj Bellani joined us for this discussion. Anne shared a rough draft proposing the creation of a Hubbard Center Faculty Advisory Board, based on the Prindle Advisory Board. The purpose would be to have a committee to ensure we connect curriculum to practicum. Bridget suggested that the Prindle model might not be appropriate for this task. Is this a "governance" committee or a different kind of committee? What is the relationship between this and the Course and Calendar Oversight Committee (which deals with Extended Studies)? Anne sees this new committee dealing more with internships and career preparation. The former Committee on Experiential Learning was more an approval committee, but the idea is that this committee would be different and entail faculty oversight of the internship process. At the moment, there are a lot of different models about how we do internships and it's important to have faculty input here.

What has been the faculty input thus far in the creation of the Hubbard Center? Raj indicated that some faculty and departments have been more involved than others. This suggests that a more formal relationship would be valuable. Raj would like some direction. Previously there had been three committees giving input (which made coordination difficult), and then when we streamlined our governance system we got rid of them all, and now we need something. It would be great to have guidelines for internships.

The university is experiencing new challenges with students not in Honors Programs who want to create internships. Summer internships are *really* an issue: cost, credit, access, etc.

One of the Governance Committee concerns is that we have worked to streamline our governance structure, and now we're creating another committee. Is this an ad hoc committee that would "sunset" after its tasks are completed, or is this something that would have continuing activities? Could this be done by an existing committee? For example, align with the Curriculum Committee or be a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee?

We do agree that there needs to be faculty involvement and oversight over internships; that these activities need to be academic. Raj stated that he wants a stronger integration of academics and internships. Do we need a pre- and post-course to prepare students for the experience? Do we grant credit for internships? What about summer internships? He suggested that the Math Department has an interesting model. The Honors Programs already have models for integrating internships into the academic program; how can we have that for all students?

Do we have a structured assessment of how successful programs and internships are? Seems like we might need some of this information to be able to make informed decisions and recommendations. This information could then shape internship guidelines.

Is it really a Hubbard Center Advisory Board or a group to deal with internships?

There are also issues that the university needs to make decisions on (access, cost, academic component), and then Raj sees it as his job to carry out the directives.

Action. After discussion, we decided that it would be best to start with a Task Force. This group would be assembled by the Governance Committee, in conjunction with the VPAA. These two groups, in addition to Raj and the Curriculum Committee, could help to develop the relevant questions to be addressed. It will be important to have involvement of faculty experienced with internships (e.g., Directors of Honors Programs), as well as some who may question the value of internships. We can then see what the Task Force recommendations are and whether we have a need for a continuing committee to address these issues.

Proposal for Creation of an Advisory Board to the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (OURSCA)

Raj left and we had a discussion with Anne regarding the proposal forwarded by Amity Reading. Anne provided some background. She indicated that the upcoming library renovation has started conversations about potential space for the Center for Teaching and Learning and for an Office of Undergraduate Research. The ad hoc OURSCA Committee is an advocacy group for faculty who are doing student research, which is largely uncompensated.

Anne shared ideas about a "Flexible Six" proposal. The Board of Trustees is not in favor of a 3-2 load, which would require about 11 faculty positions (\$20 million) to enact. She offered an alternative that some might find more appealing and might accomplish similar goals. This is referred to as a Flexible Six, based on

our faculty having 6 “teaching credits/units.” The flexible sixth “unit” could include a way to credit faculty-student research, service learning, scholarly work, advising/counseling/mentoring of students, etc. This would give us a way to have accountability of the 6th unit and this activity could be included in a faculty member’s review file.

We discussed our concerns about creating another committee, after working to streamline faculty governance. We questioned whether we need a formal committee to do what this ad hoc group is already doing, which is advocating for faculty. Does it make sense to have an Advisory Board for an office that does not yet exist? Are there other ways to do this: for example, Allegheny helps coordinate student-faculty research with a really good website. If we create this as an official “Advisory Board,” will we need to have elections or appointments so that others (outside of the existing group) have the opportunity to participate?

Action. Do we want to invite Amity to attend a future meeting to discuss?

Presidential Search

We discussed faculty concern regarding how vital it is to have a “cultural competency” component in the Presidential Search, and we fear that the Board of Trustees does not understand how significant this issue is for many faculty and students.

Action. Pam will draft a memo to Kathy Vrabek, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, trying to convey the import of the issue and making the recommendation that they have a consultant (perhaps Valerie Purdie-Vaughns, who spoke at last year’s Faculty Institute) work with them. Pam will send the draft memo to the entire Governance Committee for suggestions before sending it to Kathy Vrabek, on behalf of the Governance Committee.