

Governance Committee Minutes
9/22/15

Present: David Alvarez, Bridget Gourley, Mark Kannowski, Marnie McInnes, Pam Propsom (chair), Scott Thede, Sheryl Tremblay

Updates from reps regarding their committee plans this year:

Kannowski (Review Committee)—Find another person to serve before can't do business in spring. Review student opinion surveys. Tenure and promotion standards, lesser sanctions, some language in the Academic Handbook regarding inclusion.

Thede (Curriculum)—Curriculum reform (making the new requirement fit with language for existing requirements), Extended Studies (consider changing requirement from 2 to 3), RAS and Opportunity Hire procedures. The two latter things are items on which Governance and Curriculum can work together. Perhaps we should arrange a meeting with the university attorney to learn about legal interpretation regarding Opportunity Hiring policy.

McInnes (Faculty Development)—Excited they can focus on Faculty Development things this year. Some discussion of how funding works, can money be moved from one "pot" to another (which could have implications/connections to tenure and promotion standards, so they may need to have a conversation with Review Committee).

Alvarez (Student Academic Life)—Campus climate, retention (particularly minority students, relation to Greek life), book proposal (many of our students are not buying books), excitement about the common reading and writing for incoming students.

Gourley (Chair of the Faculty)--Reminded us that we have some set aside open meeting times that can be used to discuss issues of faculty interest. Still some openings on faculty committees that need to be filled. Need names (and perhaps a better process) for administrative reps to committees.

Issues for this year:

Guidelines for electing committee chairs, appointing reps to other committees, administrative appointments to committees (someone who has the authority and interest to deal with the relevant committee issues). We need to have a process for doing this and a place where this process is documented so that people have easy access to it. Guidelines for committees to keep meeting minutes and regularly post them.

University Governance Website—Academic Affairs will do it, if they have guidance. Is the Faculty Handbook available on the webpage? We need to have old committee meeting minutes available on the website (except for those that are confidential). Bridget will send Terry Bruner an email asking her to post old committee meeting minutes to the appropriate updated committee name.

Strategic Planning Committee—Hasn't met yet, but didn't have all appointments from other committees, only two of the three student reps. Brad Kelsheimer's office is supposed to coordinate. How will it report to our committee?

Anne Harris would like to meet with us. She can address proposed Hubbard Center Advisory Group and Undergraduate Research Advisory Group (attachment from Amity Reading).

Faculty and the Board of Trustees--Structure it so there is an on-going relationship, but this has to be in cooperation with the BOT. Renee Madison was supposed to look into "best practices" from the legal perspective. Unclear whether President Casey sees this as necessary any longer because of the Strategic Planning Committee, but some of us didn't see these two as being connected. We just need to be clear about who the "official faculty liaisons" to the BOT are and what their role is. Bridget will pursue this with President Casey, and then our committee will discuss.

Additional issues for future meetings

Producing a short-form overview of new Governance system

Books from President Casey--Bowen & Tobin's *Locus of Authority: The Evolution of Faculty Roles in the Governance of Higher Education*—he was only able to get five copies from Amazon, but has provided these for us to share and perhaps use for a future discussion with him.

Ideas for restructuring Faculty Meeting

Recommendations for faculty involvement in administrative hires that have a significant connection to faculty (e.g., VPAA, President). Part-time faculty and staff would also like an opportunity to participate.

Regular meeting time—Tuesdays, every week or every other week, 8:30 a.m. next week (Sept. 29).

Pam will contact Anne to see if she can attend a future meeting and also will work on drafts of some other ideas/documents.