

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)  
Sept. 29, 2015

Present: President Brian Casey (guest), Bridget Gourley, Mark Kannowski, Marnie McInnes, Lori Miles, Pam Propsom, Scott Thede, Sheryl Tremblay

President Casey. Brian Casey asked to update the committee on recent campus activities. We wanted to strategize how to share this at Faculty Meeting without it taking over the entire faculty meeting. The president outlined three action items:

- working with students and staff who were directly affected by police action
- preparing for future potential incidents
- coordinating and working with law enforcement on a “panel”

We suggested that this update could occur near the top of the Faculty Meeting agenda, but that we might set a time limit on the discussion. There is an open meeting on the university calendar for Oct. 27; that’s far away, but this might be good to provide some distance and give the “panel” enough time to get started.

Our written announcement on the Faculty Meeting Agenda will read something like: “The Governance Committee is using its place on the agenda for a report from President Casey. We have asked him to give a concise summary about recent events, the university response, and plans for future activities. There will be 15 minutes for this discussion so that we can conduct the rest of business. This is the beginning of the conversation, but there will be multiple opportunities for continued discussion. It is important to be able to address pressing current issues, but that is not the prime purpose of Faculty Meeting.”

Order of next Faculty Meeting agenda. Start with the remembrance for the faculty member who recently passed away. Consent agenda. Governance Committee (advance notice, President Casey).

Faculty Meeting. Lori expressed that meetings still seem somewhat inefficient; there are a lot of announcements that could be written. How to include reports from President and VPAA—at the end it seems like attention is waning, and if it’s at the beginning it supplants other business of the faculty. January Intellectual Life Working Group looked at other faculty meeting models (e.g., Roberta’s Rules), but came to no consensus. We really need Roberts Rules for when things get contentious. But is there an imaginative way to operate within the rules we have? Group committee reports together (when there are only announcements), put time limits on reports/discussion? Where do we put the President and VPAA reports? Is there a way the Governance Committee can work with them *prior* to the Faculty Meeting so that we can actually coordinate our shared governance work? We would like the faculty to be more *proactive* in governance rather than just *reacting* to administrative announcements.

Regularizing faculty participation in Board of Trustee meetings. Does this mean faculty being voting members on the board or just to regularize a way of

communicating? President Casey's suggestion--Four major subcommittees of Board (Academic Affairs, Student Life & Enrollment Management, Development and Advancement, Business and Finance), one almost always goes into executive session, so there are three committee meetings at which it would be ideal to have faculty members in attendance. Who should serve as faculty representatives to the Board? This may actually be two questions: who should attend the upcoming October Board meeting, and in the future, who should represent us? Bridget suggested that for the upcoming meeting we continue to have herself (Chair of the Faculty), Harry Brown (past Chair of Chairs) and Francesca Seaman (past Chair of COA), given that they began this discussion with the board and are committed to finishing this process. We agreed with this resolution for the time being, but will have further discussion about who would make sense as our continuing faculty representatives. The Governance Committee feels strongly that our faculty representatives to the Board should be elected, but we need to figure how they will report back to us and the faculty as a whole.