

Faculty Priorities and Governance Committee
Sept. 9, 2016

Present: Howard Brooks, Tim Good, Bryan Hanson, Bob Hershberger, Glen Kuecker, Pam Propsom, Francesca Seaman

Howard graciously agreed to run the meeting until all members were in attendance and we could select a chair.

Minutes from last year. There are three sets of meeting minutes from last year that have not been finalized. Glen and Pam (continuing members) will make sure these get approved, also checking with Anne Harris and Mark McCoy, given that they were present at the meetings as well.

Annual Report for Academic Year. Glen sent a note adding an action from the draft Annual Report for Academic Year 2015-2016. Pam will revise.

Selecting a chair. Glen was elected as committee chair for the year.

Meeting time. Fridays from 1:40-2:40 in the future, in Julian 372 (the room is reserved for the remainder of the fall semester's meetings). We plan to meet weekly, but we'll see what is necessary. We have adopted a practice of meeting with VPAA and President once a month to coordinate our shared governance activities.

Arts Advisory Committee. Craig Hadley has raised the issue of there being two overlapping/conflicting arts committees. Glen will contact Craig requesting a written proposal for resolving this and creating one committee.

Membership of Committee. Membership of the Faculty Governance Committee is to include the Chair of Chairs; however, the previous Chair of Chairs couldn't find anyone willing to both run the Chairs' Meeting and attend this meeting. Howard Brooks already attends the Chairs' Meeting and therefore it might be unnecessary to have another rep from Chairs' Meeting on Governance Committee. In addition, last year's committee thought it would be important to have a designated position for a School of Music (SOM) representative on the Faculty Governance Committee. Bob reminded us that the new SOM Dean is sitting on Review Committee for some of the cases. Francesca asked if the same process is used for personnel reviews in SOM as in the CLA. Bob indicated that this is one reason the new SOM Dean is sitting on Review Committee. There are ongoing Academic Handbook revisions to clarify SOM roles in the review process. One guiding principle is that no one should participate at more than one level of review. These Handbook revisions will probably come back to the Governance Committee for review and then eventually come before the faculty as a whole for a vote. It would be a good idea for our committee to have a meeting with the new SOM Dean to talk about shared governance. When we discussed how the SOM rep to the Faculty Governance committee should be selected, the proposal was to have this person elected by the faculty as a whole. We would need to officially change committee membership in the Handbook and bring this before the faculty for a vote.

Agenda for Faculty Meeting. Our committee sets the order of items on the Faculty Meeting agenda so we can rearrange it for the September meeting to invite the president to speak early on regarding the recent racial event on campus.

Global Crossroads Initiative. David Alvarez sent a request asking for volunteers or an ad hoc committee to work on defining the new “International Experience” general education requirement. Governance Committee will direct Curriculum Committee to address this issue.

Faculty salaries. The issue of faculty salaries used to be addressed by COA, but within the new governance structure it doesn’t really seem to have a home. We will send this issue to the Strategic Planning Committee. Might be worthwhile to have a continued discussion of workload, compensation, etc.

Academic freedom. Forwarded by Michael Roberts and the Psychology & Neuroscience Department. First went to the Chairs Meeting and then was suggested that we use one of the Open Meetings for a discussion of academic freedom and balancing this with having a safe and inclusive learning environment. Given the recent racial incident on campus and the upcoming DePauw Dialogue, it may be wise to wait and see what happens and perhaps have this topic at a later Open Meeting. We would need to make sure that we have informed people who can facilitate the discussion. Governance Committee will be a steering committee for this Open Meeting.

Issues for the future. Philadelphia Center situation (need info from VPAA). A system for the administration to inform the university community about bias incidents. Faculty role in hiring and review of senior administrators. Confidentiality and shared governance.

Submitted by Pam Propsom