

Minutes of the Governance Committee

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

David Alvarez (governance chair), Steven Bogaerts, Manu Raghav, Jinyu Liu, Kent Menzel, Sharon Crary present.

David Alvarez called the meeting to order.

The committee discussed and approved the minutes as amended.

The committee will meet with the presidential search consultant for breakfast on September 18. The co-chairs from Strategic Planning will be present. Items to share with the search consultants include an “open at the end” search process, campus climate, and distrust between faculty and administration. The committee is interested in data on the search process and the scope and range of the search pool. The committee discussed other characteristics of a potential president that would be important to share with the search firm, including teaching experience, willingness to consult with the faculty, enrollment management, and ability to deal with issues of race, culture, and gender.

The governance chair met with the co-chairs of Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The committee discussed the nature of SPC and the extent of SPC’s power on campus. SPC is able to discuss issues but does not vote on issues. Neither the composition of SPC nor the role of SPC is altogether clear. The SPC co-chairs believed that no chair of any faculty committee should meet privately with the administration as the voice of their committee.

The committee discussed perceptions of governance committee among members of the faculty at large.

The committee discussed follow-up actions deriving from previous committee work, including the call for School of Music dean search committee representatives. The governance chair discovered that the Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC) has been quite active, but did not produce a report last year.

As the Board of Trustees repeatedly asks the question “who represents the faculty,” the governance chair would like for the committee to provide a clear answer to that question. There does not appear to be support for a “senate” structure. It can be argued that the current committee structure represents the faculty, as does the traditional monthly faculty meeting. The faculty and the trustees differ in their perception of “the faculty voice.” The committee discussed the use and nature of faculty voting, with many angles of that issue presented.

The governance chair suggested sending out a draft of committee chair duties to both Governance Committee and other committee chairs for review. The governance chair feels that all ad-hoc committee appointments should be made formally by a committee within the faculty governance structure, and that this requirement ought to become a policy.

The governance chair suggested that campus climate is an important and present concern, and that Governance Committee ought to engage this issue. The committee further observed that DEC should review the documents we have assembled concerning campus climate. Consensus was reached that as all parties concerned read these documents, those readers should be on the lookout for structural variable related to campus climate.

Related to the memo *DePauw University Faculty Staffing Levels* provided to the committee by VPAA Berque, the governance chair sent inquiries to VPAA Berque about this memo, particularly related to projections made about the future structure of the faculty. VPAA Berque had not yet answered the question indicating that he and the VP of Finance would deliberate on the questions and determine when to report on their deliberations to the faculty.

The meeting was adjourned.