

Faculty Governance Committee Meeting

4-6pm, Oct. 8, 2019, Julian 372

Participants: David Alvarez (Chair), Richard Cameron, Sharon Crary, Steven Bogaerts, Kent Menzel, Jinyu Liu (minutes-taker)

("The Committee" below refers to the Faculty Governance Committee.)

- 1) Approved minutes from the Oct. 1 meeting
- 2) Review of BoT Academic Affairs committee meeting

The Chair reported back on the Board of Trustees meeting, especially with regard to the issues discussed (e.g., health care issue, faculty development) at the meeting. The Chair indicated that the FDC report from Erik Wielenberg especially regarding faculty research feeding directly into teaching was well received at the meeting. Twelve board members were present at the meeting. There was also some general discussion at the meeting about improving communication. The BoT also noted that it was in the process of reviewing and revising their committee structures.

The Committee then moved to discuss the need to formalize reports and meeting times with the Board of Trustees. Informal receptions as a potentially efficient way of communication can be formalized. Dates of these occasions should be advertised way ahead of time.

The Committee was concerned that without good knowledge of the Board of Trustees' charge and priorities, it would be difficult for any communication to be effective. It would then be critical for the Committee to both solicit information and bring to the Board our priorities and such issues as students not being able to get into classes, demand not being the sole or primary argument for curriculum configuration.

The Committee also raised questions about the structure and role of the BoT Academic Affairs committee meeting itself such as how many committees would usually be presenting at the meeting, whether they would meet in between Trustee meetings and/or have enough time to gather data to produce reasonable responses, etc.

- 3) The Chair updated on the [Policy on Disseminating Consultant and Other Reports](#). He has contacted Howard Brooks. The Committee raised the question about where the reports should be stored. Once the language is finalized (hopefully soon), the proposal will get on the faculty meeting and get voted on.
- 4) The Committee was generally satisfied with the language of the proposed [Policy on Faculty Representation on Ad Hoc committees](#). The Chair will look into the procedure of electing chair in an ad hoc committee before he shares the language with Howard Brooks.

5) The Committee further reviewed the [new draft policy for the faculty review of administrators](#) based on Denison's policy. A number of questions were raised: Is this review a faculty review of the administrators? Should the review make evaluative recommendation or not? If no recommendation were made, how could the review serve as a mechanism to encourages good behavior? How would the faculty committee members be chosen? Richard Cameron noted that there had in fact been precedents for reviewing administrators. It would be good, however, to have a formal procedure in place. In view of all the details involved, the Committee decided to continue working on it.

6) The Committee hoped to discuss the proposed "[best practices" for faculty governance committees and communication between them and the faculty](#) at our next meeting and hoped to have a sufficient draft before moving to announcement.

7) The Chair reported that he had received a request on "reviewing our smoking policy and in that process determining our approach to nicotine and tobacco products (ex. vaping) on campus. We currently only have policies in the employee handbook and in the residential handbook, not in the student handbook, and the employee policy hasn't been reviewed in 10+ years." The Committee unanimously agrees to refer the issue to the Student Life and Academic Atmosphere Committee (SLAAC).

8) The Committee will work on the request from faculty member to review this language in the Academic Handbook: "The President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Dean of the School of Music are administrative appointments. Every search committee for all three positions shall have faculty representatives."

9) The Chair updated the Committee on his meeting with Amanda Kim, the new Chief Diversity Officer, on Campus Climate. Amanda was provided with access to our Google folder on "Campus Climate". A number of the issues indeed fall into the responsibilities of the Diversity and Equity Committee. The Committee will continue to review the Campus Climate reports.