

Minutes for Faculty Priorities and Governance Committee

September 19, 2017

Approved October 3, 2017

Members introduced selves and the committees that they represent, along with elected members.

- I. **Report from VPAA:** First meeting features the VPAA who shares her agenda for the year so that committee learns her initiatives. AH distributed academic affairs initiatives for 2017-18 along with initiatives from 2016-17---for comparison: 2017-18 initiatives include:
 - Centers at DePauw (better defining their place within the academic mission)
 - General Education (Curriculum Coordinated with Practicum) re-consider collapsed designation for Arts and Humanities
 - Inclusive Excellence, (pedagogy, research, relationships)
 - Establish the Asher Office of Undergrad Research
 - Retirement package development - (very mature faculty—gathering data)
 - Designing strategic response to drop in Humanities Majors (a radical drop)
 - Examine other models of divisional departmental governance
 - Teaching Assignments in light of newly proposed advising models and the Commitment- [Could Governance consider these points as part of its conversations about equity and equality: inequities in teaching load, course re-assignments; Junior faculty teach more; effects on morale, over 300 course reassignments, does 3-2-1]
 - Post-Doc program exploration

The VPAA reported that the Registrar search is now underway. Due to timing, the new Registrar will not have much overlap with Ken Kirkpatrick.

The VPAA reported that the institution is up for accreditation next year.

One member questioned the VPAA about drop in Humanities majors---is School of Music included in these numbers? Answer: Yes—the interim Dean for the School of Music is very much concerned with recruiting.

Question from committee: Will there be faculty representation for the retirement package? The VPAA observed that faculty representation may come Strategic Planning Committee.

Question from committee member: At what point will accreditation process kick up?

The VPAA noted that Ken is assisting; 100 page limit (but institution can attach all the documents it wishes). And it's important to include all necessary documents. The VPAA anticipates lots of data gathering in the Fall and writing in the Spring.

Question from committee: Which of the priorities were “moved up” because of their association with “The Commitment?”

The VPAA notes that the Centers certainly were “moved up” in the priorities. Need to set a new advising structure that can accommodate the new curriculum up and perhaps consider a review of general education.

“Lesser sanctions” – The VPAA relates that the Handbook has specific guidelines for dismissal but doesn’t have policies for sanctions less than dismissal. Now VPAA can put things in files but there is no official process. But faculty may view the lesser sanctions procedure as threatening (committee discussed that the proposed Handbook language is to protect faculty from potential for arbitrary use of lesser sanction policies; ie., we want this policy) We’ve been working on this since 2002, and Review Committee is moved the draft policy to its penultimate version Spring 2017 but ran out of time before for advanced notice for the May faculty meeting. New language may appear before faculty IF (when) the new Review committee approves it.

II. Information about Governance Committee (Glen Kuecker., Chair)

- Glen recounted the charge for the governance committee. It has two functions: steering and consultative. In its consultative role the committee works with the administration on university initiatives, providing the faculty perspective. For those members who also serve on another committee, they must represent their committee AND the faculty. Governance committee members also bring questions/information from the committees to Governance. Governance plays a role in forming search committees for administrative positions (for which we don’t really have procedures until we pass the Faculty Voice Handbook policy). As a steering committee Governance considers issues and to determines to which committee these issues/problems should be relegated. Finally, the committee also has the ability to communicate with the Board of Trustees through the Chair of the Faculty.
- The committee attempted to elect a Chair for the academic year of 2017-18; however, no one was selected. The committee will re-consider at the next meeting. In the meantime, Glen will represent the Priorities and Governance Committee at the next Faculty meeting. The committee considered a co-chairing system as a back-up option.

III. On the agenda for future meetings:

- Arts Advisory Committee and Presidents Council for Art—two committees exist and Craig Hadley is asking that we eliminate one of them. Hadley crafted handbook language, but the governance committee had some push-back to language and it has not yet been adopted.
- Glen noted that everyone received documents about faculty voice in the recruitment, review and retention of senior administrators pertaining to the academic mission of the university. Members of the committee noted that President McCoy was opposed to open searches for the President despite AAUP explicitly calling for open searches in its November 2015 policy statement (https://www.aaup.org/sites/default/files/AAUP_Statement_on_Presidential_Searches_0.pdf). Our next step is to collectively agree on the document and send it to the VPAA and the

President for feedback, and possibly have a meeting with those administrators. The next step would be to get the consent of the administration and then put it up for advanced notice for a faculty vote. The draft Handbook language should be reviewed by the Review Committee. One member related that he has written a rough draft/proposal for a faculty resolution from the floor concerning open searches.

- At the next meeting, the committee should review the draft Handbook language for recruitment, review and retention of senior administrators and draft Handbook language on confidentiality policy.