Task Force on Shared Governance
Minutes
January 12, 2015

Attendees: Denise Bruesewitz, Michael Burke, Adam Howard, Lori Kletzer, Sandy Maisel, Bruce Maxwell, Lisa McDaniels, Andy McGadney, Betty Sasaki, Stewart Stokes, Winifred Tate,

Andy McGadney opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the first meeting of the Task Force on Shared Governance. After brief introductions of the members present, Andy provided a brief overview of the proposed process highlighting key points from the Task Force on Shared Governance - Proposed Process Document, dated September 16, 2014:

• The college’s governance system is a structure for sharing information, distributing authority and making decisions
• History of Governance changes at Colby College which included three major governance reviews over the last 50 years
  o Con Con I (69-70) expanded shared governance to include voting seats for students
  o Con Con II (1972) restructured College committees and pared the number of committees to 12 from 22
  o From 1992-1994 the issue of equal representation in College Governance was revisited with a proposal from the Committee on Committees approved in 1994, which serves as the basis of our system today
• The guiding principles of our work, in addition to the bylaws should include the following considerations:
  o Regular and effective communication among faculty, students, administration, and staff is a necessary component of any meaningful and productive governance structure, both formally and informally.
  o By practice and structure, the faculty plays a consultative role in a broad set of areas, whereas it has primary authority over the curriculum and graduation requirements.
  o Students and staff play a valuable role in governing the College and additional opportunities for their engagement would be welcome.
  o Timing is often an important component of taking advantage of opportunities, and a strong governance system is nimble and adaptable.

Discussion ensued about a series of logistical items with the following outcomes:
• Sandy Maisel was elected Chair of the Task Force (TFOSG) by unanimous vote
• TFOSG will meet two times per month, taking into consideration teaching schedules
• Background reading; preorder “Locus of Authority: The Evolution of Faculty Roles in the Governance of Higher Education” by William Bowen & Eugene Tobin

The committee members discussed various models of faculty governance and agreed to collect and share documents from a series of colleges and universities. The following schools were discussed, Antioch (Adam), Wellesley (Adam), Amherst (Winifred), Wesleyan (Andy), Connecticut College (Andy), Alleghany (Sandy), Swarthmore (Betty), Carlton College (Sandy), Bates & Bowdoin (Sandy).

In preparation for future meetings discussion continued around potential agenda topics, the need for transparency in our process, qualities of our system as well as clarity around a set of outcomes for our work together.

**Action Items**

• Add bylaws to the Google Doc
• Schedule additional meetings on the calendar for the group
• The next meeting will be held on 1/22 @ 9:00am in Marchetti Room, SSW
• Collect and post Governance documents from other institutions

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm