Faculty Task Force on Governance
Minutes
February 25, 2015

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

Chair Maisel opened the meeting at 4:00pm

A series of key questions were shared and addressed during the meeting:
  • What is our goal for faculty governance?
  • How do we define where we want to get involved and where we don’t?
  • What are the domains?

In response to the goal of shared leadership, comments around the importance of collaborative leadership and the various levels of responsibility within that leadership were discussed.

With reference to the college’s mission, it was articulated that we are an intellectual community. It was further noted, that it is important to manage aspects of our mission that defines us as an intellectual community.

Discussion ensued regarding areas of responsibility within the college. The degree of responsibility and control by faculty of a particular domain is proportional to the centrality of that domain with regards to the definition of our intellectual community. The responsibility of the leader is to communicate and clearly explain outcomes etc.

Another important consideration when discussing leadership and decision-making authority is the importance of clear definitions of those action verbs (lead, manage, advise, awareness, consultation, authority) so that the exact role of faculty in governance is crystal clear. Even if leadership authority is not the goal within certain areas, awareness is essential.

The way in which information is shared remains a challenge. The connection between college committees and information back to the faculty was discussed. A few ideas were shared:
  • Post minutes
  • Encourage committee chairs to answer questions during faculty meeting

Additional Items/Points for consideration:
  • There is no aspect of the college that doesn’t affect the community
  • The more we think faculty should play a role, the more the responsibility falls on all faculty, not just a few
• Consideration needs to be given to the impact on personal workload and personnel policy as it relates to faculty governance

**Action Items:**

• Future agenda items to include a deeper discussion about our faculty meeting, committee structures and address the question of “what is the “shared” part of shared governance?”

• Chair Maisel will draft “straw person” governance proposal for reaction by the members of the task force prior to the next meeting