TSG SS 2015-10-20

Martha Arterberry, Travis Carter, Erin Sheets, Joe Reisert, Rafael Scheck, Walter Hatch

Winnefred Tate, Adam Howard, Lisa McDaniels

Question: role of the faculty steering committee
- why do we need this instead of the existing system?
- response: one of our charges was to give faculty a bigger voice in agenda setting
- response: mostly gives status to the committee
- Steering committee: agenda, nominations

Point: the reason we don't talk about things, is that nobody brings things up?
- anyone can raise their hand and propose a motion under new business
- how do you build something/create something that facilities discussion?
- do we really want to talk more, given our behavior?

Question: proposed structure of the Steering Committee
- why have only one untenured faculty member?
- does it set up an elite subcommittee of the faculty?
- response: one big job is setting the agenda at faculty meetings
- response: also asks division chairs to hold meetings between fac meetings
- response: committee is responsible for responding to requests for topics
- response: other big job is nominations, and there are lots more of those now

Question: do we have to have the division chairs as part of the Steering committee?
- response: there are efficiencies in having Division chairs as part of it
- response: many of the DC duties are part of the SC duties

Question: why not have more untenured faculty involved in SC?
- response: there are many issues where untenured faculty would be uncomfortable
- response: concern about level of work for an untenured faculty member
- response: concern about compensation for time on SC

Question: P&T issues
- recusal policy change is good

Question: conflict policy w/external member
- there are potential policies of timing, timing is not that bad
- response: primary concern is that all candidates are treated equally
- response: some colleges enforce this for departmental members as well
- concern: outside member can act as an equalizing force for people with no departmental member on P&T
- response: there is also an influence aspect, any senior person should have only one place to vote

Question: when a chair or department member is on P&T that seems more problematical than the outside committee members
- would be open to disallowing departmental members
- there is support in this meeting for following this rule
- response: in small departments this can have an adverse effect in any given year
- one possibility is to allow someone to choose to recuse themselves from a single case on P&T to serve on the department committee
  -- how do we deal with that situation?
  -- concern is the department member taking on more of an advocacy role
- second possibility: faculty member from the department could not speak (what are they doing there?)

Question: library committee membership change
- why the change?
- response: requests to go back to the old membership from several constituencies

Question: adding IDS position to P&T
- strong concern about arbitrarily picking division membership
- the mixed membership need to be resolved into one and stay consistent
- understand that there is a difference in administrative structure in ID programs that call upon the resources of multiple departments. In an administrative context they need to be treated differently.
-- believe there are only three academic areas: world of things (NS), world of ideas (HU), world of both (SS)
-- response: there are many people who feel that ID programs have a unique characters.
- Current rules allow you to pick a division that is consistent at any point in time, but you can switch
- The current rules--advising, steering committee, teaching, research--don't seem to always work

Question: reconsideration committee
- multiple concerns
-- one concern: reconsideration committee is completely independent with no oversight and tends not to stay within their mandate
-- second concern: going back to P&T was felt to be problematic
--- this was the place we could find agreement

Question: mention of a moderator in the faculty meeting
- response: some faculty didn't want the President to chair the faculty meeting
- response: this formalizes that the President can appoint a moderator
- concern: unanticipated new business
- like the idea of a moderator, why not elected?
- response: faculty meeting officers are appointed by President, kept this model
- response: it needs to be someone viewed as neutral, and needs to be capable

Question: how does the agenda-setting committee meeting work?
- response: the SC includes the President, so he has a voice
- there will be conflict in deciding what is on the agenda and for how long
- comment: the President should chair the meeting; it's his job
- concern: moderator seems symbolic, not meaningful
- comment: symbolism is important to faculty
Question: health-care advisory committee
- forgot to mention AEATAG(?) advisory board
- should be a sub-group under HCA committee

Question: what is the most important item in here that increases faculty voice?
- Sandy: SC bringing issues to the college
- Lori: P&T excusals
- Lisa: designated slots on several committees for Librarians, Coaches, HU, and IDS
- Bruce: increased appointments to spread out governance tasks, esp for untenured faculty

Question: IDS slot makes it 10 people, any concerns?
- No

Question: change in DC elections?
- Yes, uniform across
- Support for electing from division within division

Concern: creating more meetings and more slots for the same people
- the document is aspirational
- will this structure inspire people to either re-engage or shut up
- like the guidelines, have to be careful about setting expectations