

Task Force on Shared Governance
April 23, 2014, 3:15 pm, Room 408 Manderino Library

APPROVED MINUTES

The Task Force on Shared Governance met on Monday, April 23, 2014 at 3:15 pm in Room 408, Manderino Library.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Dr. Carol Bocetti, Dr. Stan Komacek, Dr. Michael Slavin, Dr. Craig Smith, and Dr. Mohamed Yamba.

The minutes from the April 7, 2014 were presented. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Changes to constitution/bylaws/manuals

Dr. Smith recommended to the members of APSCUF, Student Government and Faculty Senate that their constitutions/bylaws need to be revised noting the dissolution of the Forum.

Models for Shared Governance

Dr. Smith presented a model for shared governance based upon the principle of decision making, where input on decisions after they are made is *reactionary* (not part of shared governance), and recommendations to administration before decisions are made is only half the picture of shared governance (it is also accomplished reasonably well right now with the system in place.) What is missing from the model and always has been, even with the Forum - is the other half of the picture of shared governance, where administration *seeks input* on decisions before they are made from affected constituencies. Dr. Smith advised the task force to consider the whole picture before assembling the pieces, which meant addressing the crucial question, "*Who will administration consult with before decisions are made?*"

Dr. Smith presented the following possible models for consideration:

- o **The diversified model** - three broad constituencies (students, faculty, and staff) are each represented by one body and administration consults each depending on the subject of the decision. This model presented the difficulty of choosing one group to represent each broad constituency - i.e. students already have an effectively functioning body (student government), but staff have no current single body, and faculty have several potential ones.

- o **The unified model** - three broad constituencies (students, faculty, and staff) are all part of a single organization (possibly called a university senate), composed largely of the leadership from each of those constituencies. This model presented the difficulty of designing such an organization while avoiding the appearance and perceived inefficiency of the recently dissolved Forum

Discussion followed, which included the importance of perception in any model of shared governance - which model is less reactionary or provides a greater sense of ownership in

decision making. The pros and cons of each model were weighed, and questions were raised about creating the unitary model or selecting the one representative group for each constituency in the diversified model. There were suggestions for using both models or possibly merging the two into a composite model, depending upon the subject matter of the decision.

It was agreed the goal should be to keep the system of shared governance simple, based upon the president's charge. A system already exists for decision making - is it possible to identify it? Only if we identify those groups whom the administration seeks to consult for input on decisions.

There was agreement reached to recommend the diversified model, where administration consults with student government on decisions affecting students generally, APSCUF on decisions affecting faculty generally, UCC on decisions affecting academics generally, and a new leadership council of staff unions on decisions affecting staff generally. This model was designed so that communication was facilitated between organizations, and a flow chart was created to illustrate how these organizations reached affected constituencies for feedback on decisions in a timely manner.

Dr. Smith agreed to create a diagram of this new model for shared governance with a written description of its operation and send it to task force members before the next meeting for further consideration.

The next meeting should be the following week.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.