

SHARED GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

President's Charge

November 18, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.

President recapped what happened w/the University Forum. Goal is to have new plan in place by July 1, 2014.

Charges from President to the task force to be delivered by July 1, 2014:

- Review and codify the existing shared governance system on campus and describe how the various governing entities relate to one another;
- Formulate recommendations as to whether the current “system” simply needs minor adjustments or if a larger overhaul / revision is needed;
- Develop recommendations for improved shared governance with a goal of streamlining, simplifying and formalizing the system while permitting all campus constituencies to have a voice;
- Review any unfinished business from the University Forum for current relevance.

President also mentioned that we will see about Dana Turcic doing work to assist the committee with the logistics of this work.

Dr. Smith: Regarding all consistencies having a voice, and what constitutes a “voice.” In Faculty Senate, both consultation and recommendation are part of the process. President Jones noted that this is something that the Task Force would need to discuss.

Dr. Slavin noted that we need to look at what bodies are out, codifying what is already out there. Do we need that many bodies? Referenced Committee on Committees at WVU; controlled duplication; kept record of active committees and past committees. Noted that if we looked into this, we could come up with a listing of all committees, and this body could look at those committees.

Dr. Smith noted that the implementation of the decisions is not necessarily an aspect of shared governance. If we have diverse range of voices on campus, what is the most streamlined way of consultation and recommendation before the decision is made by the authority? How the dialogue occurs is important.

Dr. Slavin noted that in the past some of the bodies were forced to be reactionary, as opposed to proactive; a more proactive approach is needed.

Dr. Madden noted that we don't even know how to define shared governance given collective bargaining system. Middle States said that they don't care how we manage the shared governance. Complaints of Forum: said over the years we would use outside consultant and ask other people who have done this, and we haven't done this, and it is important to do this. Noted that if we are starting brand new, he would like to participate. But not interested in participating if we are just looking at things left over from the past Forum.

President agreed that this process is a “blank check.” The Task Force needs to decide if they want a consultant, etc., but the President is willing to give the Task Force what it needs.

Provost Barnhart explained the second bullet in the memo, and this is not a rehash of the Forum system, but since things are happening and going on, there is something in place that exists. So, this doesn't mean we need to keep the Forum structure in place or revise it; the Task Force can decide what needs done in this regard.

Dr. Smith noted that our current system that exists in the absence of the Forum is the one that existed when the Forum was in existence. But it is not a shared governance system right now; left institution capable of making decisions, but it is not a shared governance system. We need to define shared governance, which is all constituencies feel that they have a stake in this.

Dr. Slavin noted that Middle States doesn't understand who we are, and he wonders if the university even knows what shared governance is – perhaps we need to come up with that definition for us? Shared governance at Cal U means -- ???. We come up with an idea of a definition when we mention shared governance. Or we might find that answer after we do our research.

Dr. Smith noted that the differencing views of what shared governance could mean. The travel policy was a moment of contention; how come this is being distributed as final policy, but no one in faculty had the chance to review it? It needed to be codified, but doesn't believe the decision making is at an end; everyone should have a voice and a chance to discuss the policy before it became a point of contention.

Dr. Madden noted that we don't have shared governance everywhere, i.e., classroom, so we do need to try and define shared governance.

Dr. Yamba noted that if we start with presumption that all constituencies should be consulted, then nothing would work. We begin by defining what we want -- by us, but don't presume that before the President acts, constituencies must approve what she does.

Dr. Smith said that the discussion of shared governance is exclusive to higher education and operates on different principles than the examples mentioned here today (family, classroom, etc). Shared governance is where intelligent, experienced people mutually bring about the best policy decisions; need a system that satisfies the needs of shared governance with the timeliness needed.

Dr. Slavin noted that finding a balance is important, and that is why the reactive/proactive is important. Dr. Madden noted that we need to first define shared governance – that is important to do.

Dr. Slavin asked if Provost will be represented on this Task Force? Provost said he didn't want it to be too administration-heavy. Dr. Slavin noted that it would be important for the Provost to participate, and the President when her schedule permits. Dr. Slavin noted that it is important to hear as many voices as possible; he will try not to be as vocal, and remind him of that!

Introductions were made at this time.

Will share the relevant sections of the Middle States report.

Dr. Slavin noted that perhaps Dr. Smith can get out materials, questions, etc. prior to the meetings.

Dr. Smith noted that he has some ideas for the first meeting and will work with Ms. Turcic in preparation for the first meeting.

Dr. Slavin asked about non-academic officers; sees non-academic union reps here; but not non-academic administrative officers. President agreed. Dr. Slavin noted that it doesn't have to be Bob Thorn, but someone on that side of the house. The President will take care of doing so.

Dr. Komacek: the July 1, 2014 deadline; but how often does the President want to be updated? President noted that 6-week regular update would be great, and she can attend any meeting of the Forum that the Task Force would like for her to attend.

Dr. Komacek also noted a website where all the documents, etc. the Task Force is considering should be made available to the campus? All agreed that this is a good idea.

The meeting concluded at 11:28 a.m.