

March 30, 2014

Re: Periodic report on task force on shared governance

Dear President Jones:

Regarding our agreement for you to receive regular updates approximately every 6 weeks, this correspondence is the third of those updates.

Since my second report, the task force met three times (February 27, March 10, and March 24, 2014) where the following took place:

- By consensus the task force agreed to hold meetings more frequently; however, attendance is sporadic, ranging from 5 to 7 absences per meeting. Dana Turcic makes every effort to confirm availability, and meetings are scheduled based on the greatest number available.
- Agendas for the last three meetings are attached to this message; the task force continues to examine the current governance structure, making diagrams and defining relationships. The task force agreed to operate without formal rules of procedure, and all decisions remain “pending” until the final report is presented
- In addition to potential constituent “voices” involved in shared governance decision-making, the task force considered “dialogue” areas where shared governance should occur. It will be the goal of the task force to consider and align different constituent voices to each dialogue area to see where our current system needs minor revision or major overhaul.
- Certain dialogue areas appear to work well in the current system, and the task force agreed curriculum revision, faculty tenure, promotion, and sabbatical should remain unchanged. There remain a considerable number of dialogue areas in the absence of the Forum and a codified, accepted shared governance system that have yet to be addressed. Several constituent voices appear to have no useful purpose in the current system.
- As of our February 27 meeting Dr. Carol Bocetti has replaced Dr. Sean Madden

At our next meeting in April 2014, the Task Force will consider which constituent “voices” are best suited to each “dialogue” area in the proposed shared governance system. Several task force members (notably Brendan Demmy and Stan Komacek) have contributed materially to task force deliberations with diagrams and presentations on the current decision-making system. This proved helpful to task force members unfamiliar with these processes.

At this point in our deliberations, I believe the task force is ready to start wrestling with possibly the most difficult and important questions – what topics need to be discussed with various

constituencies before decisions are reached, and with which constituencies should university administration consult in order to make informed decisions. We have considered what works well in the current system and eliminated what is arguably inconsequential from systemic reform. Now we are at the hard task of simplifying an admittedly cumbersome system.

Thank you again for assigning me the chairman position; the task force is making slow but positive progress. As always, you are welcome to participate in our meetings. I hope your schedule permits you to join us sometime.

Respectfully,

Dr. Craig A. Smith
Associate Professor
Faculty Senate, president
Task Force, chairperson

Cc: Provost Bruce Barnhart

Task Force on Shared Governance

Meeting Agenda

February 27, 2014

Approval of minutes (January 23, 2014)

Additions to the agenda

Discussion

- *Final* Definition of shared governance (action)
- Google Docs @ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_f0ljHblPdOFLSxrQ8XbQ5LWHqTnaOufOIKqvBz3n8Y/edit?pli=1 (review)
- Comprehensive chart of current system (action)

Old Business

- Comprehensive chart of current system – describe relationships
- Investigation other schools

New Business

- Recommendations to streamline, simplify, formalize
- Forum's unfinished business

Task Force on Shared Governance

Meeting Agenda

March 10, 2014

Approval of minutes (February 27, 2014)

Additions to the agenda

Discussion

- Comprehensive chart of current system (additions/deletions?)
- Spreadsheet of groups – category – role (additions/deletions?)
- Next meeting – timeframe available

Old Business

- Definition of shared governance (revisions?)
- Comprehensive chart of current system – describe relationships
- Investigation other schools

New Business

- Recommendations to streamline, simplify, formalize
- Forum's unfinished business

Task Force on Shared Governance

Meeting Agenda

March 24, 2014

Approval of minutes (March 10, 2014)

Additions to the agenda

Discussion

- Diagram of student government (SAI) – Demmy/Denardo
- Continue review of comprehensive chart of dialogue areas & constituent voices (consider Budget only if Thorn present)
- Description/definition of scope and content of dialogue areas
- Next meeting – timeframe available

Old Business

- Definition of shared governance
- Comprehensive chart of current system – describe relationships
- Chart of governance system – align constituent voices with dialogue areas
- Investigation other schools

New Business

- Recommendations to streamline, simplify, formalize
- Forum's unfinished business