

January 7, 2014

Re: Task force on shared governance

Dear President Jones:

During the initial meeting of the task force, November 18, 2013, you requested regular updates approximately every 6 weeks. This correspondence is the first of those updates.

Since that initial meeting where you charged the task force with review of and recommendations for our shared governance system, the following took place:

- I communicated with Dana Turcic, informing her of the task force membership, the president's charges, and plans to keep our work transparent through a web site
- Dana Turcic initiated the creation of and will maintain a web-page on the Cal U site: <http://www.calu.edu/about-us/shared-governance/index.htm> (initially this includes members of the task force, the president's charge to the task force, minutes from our November 18 meeting, and my contact information)
- Dana Turcic arranged the next meeting of the task force for December 10, 2013. Prior to that meeting I shared with task force members several documents for review, including my own analysis of the Forum's unfinished business; the Middle States Standards, "Characteristics of Excellence"; Greg Sholtz, "What is shared governance anyway?"; Gary Olson, "Exactly what is shared governance?"; the University of Louisiana, Monroe, Principles and Practice of Shared Governance; and Stanley Fish, "Shared governance: Democracy is not an educational idea." My goal was to provide the most recent, relevant, intriguing, and concise readings.
- For the December 10 meeting I prepared an agenda (attached); all task force members were present and Dana Turcic kept minutes (soon available on the website)
- Major issues decided were to define shared governance for Cal U – myself, Sean Madden, and Mohamed Yamba were authorized to compose this definition based upon discussion. We continue to work on language before presenting it to the task force. The task force also chose to review all Cal U constituencies over the winter break in order to create a chart representing each distinct "voice" in our shared governance system. This responsibility was divided between representative members of students, faculty, administration, and staff.
- On December 16 Provost Barnhart informed me Robert Thorn (representing non-academic administrators) will join the task force membership

At this point, the task force continues to revise the Cal U definition of shared governance, and we continue to assemble materials for our inventory of the current shared governance system. It is my goal that these tasks will be completed in time for our next meeting in the spring semester, when we can begin to review possible recommendations for streamlining and simplifying. Once material is agreed upon and finalized it will appear on the shared governance web site.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work on this worthy endeavor. We will keep you informed of our upcoming meetings, and you are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

Respectfully,

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

Cc: Provost Bruce Barnhart

(Attachment)

Task Force on Shared Governance  
Meeting Agenda  
December 10, 2013

Additions to the agenda

Discussion

- Review president’s charges to
  - Review and codify existing governance “system” describing relationships
  - Formulate recommendations for revision of current “system”
  - Develop recommendations for streamlining, simplifying and formalizing “system” involving all campus constituencies
  - Review Forum unfinished business
- Review Middle States Standards & periodic review report

Action

- How to accomplish president’s charges – develop plan
  - Consider defining shared governance for Cal U
  - Consider investigating similar schools
  - Consider external consultant
- Organizing chart of governing entities
- Forum’s unfinished business