

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #27 (2016-17)
Monday, April 10, 2017, 12:15 pm – 1:45 pm
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

In Attendance: Leonard Albano (Secretary), Provost Bruce Bursten, Tanja Dominko (Chair), Glenn Gaudette, Eleanor Loiacono, David Spanagel, and Suzanne Weekes

Absent: Mark Richman

Guests: Karen Oates – Dean of Arts and Sciences, Terri Camesano – Dean of Graduate Studies, Art Heinricher – Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Bogdan Vernescu – Vice Provost for Research

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:18 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. Professional administrative development for Faculty
In 2013, then-Provost Overström and COG discussed opportunities for Faculty development and experience in academic leadership. Deans Oates, Camesano, and Heinricher and VPR Vernescu were invited to discuss the continuation of the initiative. Dean Oates began the discussion with the concern that initiatives to involve members of the Faculty in academic leadership require the commitment of the institution so that resources and support are available for the participating faculty members to gain training and coaching in the skills needed to take on and successfully complete an initiative. Dean Camesano stated that there should be some flexibility in defining the terms of the appointment. She cautioned that a one-year appointment and a 25% time commitment may not be sufficient to complete a large project that may require working with Faculty Governance for implementation. VPR Vernescu pointed out that some projects requiring specific skills and a short time frame may be too intensive for a faculty member to complete with a 25% time commitment. Prof. Gaudette expressed concern that a time commitment beyond 25% might have a negative impact on a faculty member's research activities, and this awareness may limit the pool of faculty members who are willing to participate. He asked whether there are other opportunities for professional development of active researchers. In addition, Prof. Gaudette asked whether there are opportunities for the professional development of tenured/tenure-track faculty members that are directly aligned with the strategic plan (e.g. PhD plan; Research Solutions Institute). The Deans and VPR made the case that Faculty who are interested in leadership training may consider experiences gained through sabbaticals and externally organized programs. The Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Institute was highlighted as one example of an external opportunity. It was noted that the office of VP Jones-Johnson may be a resource for identifying and advertising external opportunities to Faculty. Dean Oates added that a list of opportunities also could be compiled through the network of deans at institutions across the country.

The question was raised as to whether a faculty member who identifies a potentially worthwhile initiative may submit a proposal for a Dean to consider. Provost Bursten responded that initiatives to engage faculty members in administrative leadership should go through the Deans and the Office of Academic Affairs. Provost Bursten also stated that the resources to support the participation of faculty members in external programs for leadership training should be set aside as part of the annual budget cycle.

4. The Minutes from Meeting #26 (April 3rd) were approved.
5. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully,
Len Albano, Secretary