Approved Governing Faculties Meeting Minutes

February 03, 2017

French Hall 161, 10:30am-12:00noon


The meeting was called to order at 10:35am

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the 11.11.16 Governing Faculty meetings were approved as revised.

2. Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

H. Wehbe-Alamah presented the Strategic Planning Committee goals and process. Encourage faculty to check on the dedicated website and send their feedback consistently during the time of this process. There will be upcoming Open Forums and all other info will be posted in the website. She then opened the floor for questions. F. Svoboda objected to the make-up of faculty members on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, most specifically to the fact that no person from the library or from the humanities was included. The question was asked if anyone from the library or from humanities had been nominated or self-nominated, to which F. Svoboda responded he had. Others also pointed out that there were three members of a single department in the committee. H. Wehbe-Alamah thanked them for identifying the gaps in committee structure and explained that the committee composition is a done deal and was completed through a rigorous vetting process in consultation with AAAC, CAC/BSP and FC. She indicated the committee is working on addressing these gaps by meeting with groups that are not represented in the committee and exploring ways of collaboration and communication. F. Svoboda indicated that this may be so, but it does not change the fact that the views of these two essential areas will not be directly represented in conversations setting a direction for strategic planning.

C. Douglas opened the discussion by explaining the process and how the proposed code changes came about. K. Schilling agreed to be the Parliamentarian for this meeting.

Proposal 1 on editorial changes. A. Lutzker moved to amend the motion to not include the elimination of the senior advisor to the chancellor. Motion passed. J. Lawand moved to amend the motion to eliminate the proposed change to article 3, section 1.a. Motion passed. Article 3,3.a should spell University of Michigan-Flint for consistency.

Proposal 4. Discussion ensued on advantages of specifying the number of at-large members. J. Sanders asked about proportional representation on Faculty Council. C. Douglas indicated that it is not in the code, but it has worked that way in the past 5 years by default. M.Vaziri suggested that it might be time to reworked the entire code, rather than fixing it. There were several opinions that this can be done in parallel, including examining the proportional representation on committees. A. Dorfman moved to charge FC to devise a process to conduct an overall revision of the Faculty Code. This will be an additional motion in the electronic ballot.

Proposal 4a. J. Ellis motioned to modify the proposal to read “A member of the faculty shall be elected as Parliamentarian.”

Proposal 2. No discussion.

Proposal 3. No discussion.

Proposal 4b. Several objections were presented, including that librarians and clinical faculty would be excluded from the FC Chair position, that it can be seen as patronizing, and could create a culture of fear. Others spoke in favor given the need of protection and long term knowledge of the faculty and institution. It was also indicated as an argument in favor, that the chair of FC needs to have difficult discussions with senior administrators and tenure protection allows the chair to speak freely, which allows the chair to best represent the faculty. J. Lawand moved to amend the motion to modify the word “must” for “recommend to be.” Motion did not pass.

Proposal 5. There were several questions on the inclusion of librarians on committees in Ann Arbor. Several members expressed support for the inclusion but were worried about how this would impact the proportional representation of CAS. D. Lair moved to amend the motion to add an additional member of CAS to each of the three major committees to address proportional representation, and modify the number of committee members accordingly. Motion passed.


A. Lutzker suggested that the new revised code version include composition of the Strategic Planning Committee. Chris mentioned that FC will be meeting this week with C. Miller with regards to the ad-hoc committees.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricardo Alfaro
Secretary Faculty Council