Governance Committee Annual Report 2010-2011

Members:
- James Hart (Law Library) 2010-2011, outgoing member
- Darice Pacak (RWC, Dental Hygiene) 2010-2011, outgoing member
- Frank Wray (RWC, Biology) 2010-2011, outgoing member
- Judith Feinberg (CoM) 2010-2012, continuing member
- Richard Miller (ENGR) 2010-2012, continuing member
- Joni Torsella (CEAS, School of Engineering Education) 2010-2012, continuing member
- Tracy Herrmann (RWC), Outgoing Chair

By-Laws Amendments:

The Governance Committee proposed by-laws amendments related to timeframes associated with semester conversion and general clarifications regarding committees for consideration at the All University faculty meeting on 10/27/10. Upon discussion at the faculty senate meeting, receipt of feedback from faculty, and consultation with the provost’s office regarding the necessary time-frame these revisions were withdrawn for further consideration. A revision of the proposed by-laws amendments was approved at the All-University Faculty meeting on May 24, 2011. Two additional issues have arisen regarding the by-laws.

- Article III. Election procedures (1) Section 1. Election of officers, faculty representatives to the board of trustees, and at-large faculty senators. (l) Filling Vacancies does not address the replacement of vacancies on the Grievance Committee.

- Article III. Election procedures (3) Section 3. Election of faculty to faculty senate committees describes elections occurring at the final spring term meeting of the faculty senate while (4) Section 4. Election of faculty to all university committees with faculty senate elected representatives. (b) describes the potential use of electronic ballots. Since these elections are typically held simultaneously and with the same ballot, it would be beneficial for these processes to correlate more closely. Clarification is also needed regarding who is eligible to vote for the all university committees as the wording for paper voting specifies the “faculty senators” as the voters and the wording for electronic ballot specifies “all members”.

Governance Issues:

The committee accomplished the following.

- The committee supported the format for interaction with the Provost at the faculty senate meetings.

- A list of acronyms was developed to support faculty understanding of governance issues. The committee recommends that these be included in the 2011-12 Governance Briefing Book provided on the Faculty Senate web-site.
• The committee came to a general consensus that employment should supersede student status when applied to multi-constituency committee service. A formal resolution regarding this could be considered in the upcoming academic year.

• The committee prepared recommendations for potential activities for a fall 2011 Governance boot camp. These included:
  o Faculty Senate chair-Faculty Senate Impact report,
  o Presidential Update on the 2019 Strategic Plan,
  o Provost update on the Academic Plan,
  o Semester Conversion Policies & Procedures update,
  o Budget Impact Update,
  o Informal Question/Answer session,
  o Status of Ohio Government on Higher Education,
  o Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure and Etiquette, and
  o an Agenda Setting Caucus.

• The committee co-authored a joint resolution with the Student Government regarding the reconvening of a Task Force to examine the current smoking policy on Campus. This resolution was approved at the joint meeting.

• The committee prepared a list of concerns regarding the increase in faculty teaching load as proposed by state government. The committee recommended further investigation of faculty teaching loads in relation to semester conversion.

• The committee prepared a statement for the Faculty Senate web-site regarding standing committees. The review of completeness and accuracy of web content and suggestions for new content could be a potential role for this committee.

• Additional topics that were discussed but not acted upon this year are listed below.
  o What is the role of the faculty senate with regard to potential guidance for college level governance?
  o How can the effectiveness of the faculty senate be assessed? Should it be assessed? What is the influence of faculty senate resolutions? Can the governance structure be improved?
  o How can the reporting structure of and linkage to representatives on All-University Committees be improved?

Respectfully Submitted by,

Tracy Herrmann
2010-11 Governance Committee Chair