

Senate Meeting

November 10, 2011

Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the October 13, 2011 senate meeting were approved.

2. Report of the Chair, Richard Harknett:

Chair Harknett began by asking senators if there was any discussion regarding his report to the faculty. Arlene Johnson congratulated Chair Harknett on his appointment as Chair of the search for a permanent VP Chief Information Officer. This is an important precedent to have a non-administrator serve as Chair of a vice presidential search. Chair Harknett was appointed by President Williams and Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, Bob Ambach. Chair Harknett asked if there was any more discussion of the items in his report. There was none. The full text of Chair Harknett's report can be found on the Faculty Senate website:

http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/facultysenate/senate/docs/facultysenate/chairreports/chairreportsharknett/Chair_Report_Oct_13_2011.pdf

3. Report of the President of the University of Cincinnati, Gregory Williams:

President Williams began by complimenting the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash Dean, Cady Short-Thompson, on the fantastic job she has been doing at UCBA. He indicated that he was happy with the senate's agenda in terms of examining committee structure at the University. He said that he had been concerned about this for quite some time. He recently attended a campus planning committee meeting where there was a discussion of how committees are structured, how decisions are made, and how information flows into and out of those committees. He said that when he arrived at the University of Cincinnati he was given a chart that told him how decisions were made at the University. He said that the chart made no sense to him at all, and after two years he is still grappling with how the committee structure operates and its efficiency. While this system might be better and more transparent than what UC historically had in place, it still appears to be complicated and redundant. The President firmly believes that now might be a good time to look at the decision-making process and see whether or not it is the best method to use. President Williams has asked Executive Vice President, Karen Faaborg and Professor, Kristi Nelson to chair a task force that includes Richard Harknett, the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, Bob Ambach, the Dean's Council Chair, Robert Probst, and Student Government President, Alan Hagerty to look into this and to make recommendations to President Williams and Provost Ono. The President went on to quote Article 27 of the AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement which states:

The variety and complexity of tasks performed by institutions of higher education produce an interdependence among constituent elements of the University. Adequate communication is therefore essential, and there must be full opportunity for appropriate joint planning and effort.

Each college Faculty shall have the right to advise, aid, and counsel the Dean of the college

on matters affecting the college and the University, and shall be given sufficient time to do so.

The President said that he felt shared governance was a must if we were to make great decisions. He indicated that effective decision-making needs to be clear, timely, efficient and understandable. He said that a great example of shared governance was the work done by the D.A.I.R. committee. The D.A.I.R. committee formed our position on the Enterprise University issue, and we still maintain that position which came out of the research done by that committee. President Williams said that this is the type of work he is looking for from faculty committees. He wants committees to work quickly and efficiently but not be burdened down by having to go from one committee to another in order to make decisions. President Williams hopes that the new task force he has just formed will simplify the decision making process, simplify the structures that are involved so that the end result will be real improvements. He is pleased that the Faculty Senate will be taking this issue up as well.

4. Discussion of Reports of Standing Committees:

There was no discussion of standing committee reports.

5. Discussion for Input on Decision-Making Structure:

Chair Harknett stated that our system is working well in terms of shared governance and we just need to think about ways that we can make it better. He pointed out that we went from a place in the past where we had ineffective shared governance and that the system we use now is much improved. After a number of years however, now might be an appropriate time to think through our decision-making structure. He indicated that the questions he had were ones that had been discussed the previous week in cabinet, but were by no means the only way to frame this discussion. Chair Harknett asked the Senate to give him feedback on these issues regarding decision-making processes so that he could take that feedback to the task force. He wanted information regarding information flow, structure, and efficiency.

Is communication flowing as effectively as it can between the committees that we have?

Are we organized so that expertise is used so that it can inform the decision-making process?

Which is more important in terms of committee membership representation or expertise?

Chair Harknett said that we should begin our focus group discussion by asking for individuals' experiences and discussing what is working well in the current system. At-Large Senator, Tracey Hermann indicated that she felt that there was a good communication process between the Senate Standing Committees and the faculty. The information from standing committees gets disseminated to the Faculty Senate, and it is made available to the entire University through the Faculty Senate web site. Communication between All University Committees is problematic, because there are a large number of them, and they do not post their minutes in one central location on the University web site. Dissemination of information from these committees is important for us to examine. There is a collection deficit for information from the All University Committees, and there is no central dissemination point.

Several Senators mentioned that we often have enough information on the web site but there is a problem finding it. For example, Senator Jeff Bauer indicated that the University is "data rich and information poor". He mentioned that Chair Harknett should bring this up to the CIO search

committee. Chair-Elect, Richard Miller voiced the same concern, indicating that information on the web is not where one would expect it to be. Thus, even though the information is out there you cannot get to it. Board of Trustees Representative, Dale Schaefer indicated that the problem could be with search engines. We need search engines that don't interface with external information, but rather interface with internally relevant information. Senator Pamela Heaton indicated that there is a lack of the system interfacing with student information and student data, and faculty information. Chair Harknett indicated that these types of IT issues are critical to decision-making within the organization. The committees need access to this information in order to make informed and effective decisions.

Senator Eric Anderson stated that there are problems with finding information in the Universis system. At-Large Senator Brett Harnett said that much of the information we have out there is unstructured. Senator Jeff Bauer said that the ACC is an important element in the committee structure. He mentioned the discussions about the "One University Model" a couple of years ago, saying that we came out of those discussion with the idea that the regional campuses should remain separately budgeted and separately administered, but the curriculum needed to be integrated. With semester conversion we have done that, but if we lose the ACC we will lose that integration of curriculum. Vice Chair Daniel Langemeyer added to that saying that the curriculum or faculty side of things usually does not get as messy as the business side of things. Daniel went on to say that the faculty owns and cares about curriculum and so it is the financial side that often gets messy. Once a decision goes past the ACC since Kristi Nelson chairs it, academic issues do not go past the Provost, but the financial decisions go round and round to a number of different constituents. He indicated that in terms of who is there the FCC is an important group, but they are not nearly as important in terms of decision making as the ACC. Chair Harknett said that our current organizational flow chart would imply that the ACC and FCC are comparable, but in terms of their functionality, the ACC is making decisions that do not have to go on to bumped up to three or four more levels. FCC is really advisory. He went on to say that we need to realize that the chart that we have now is depicting a flow that is not lined up with functionality. At-Large Senator Jeff Tilman, noted that with the increase in faculty involvement in university committees, one of the things that is happening is that the Chair of the Faculty is getting overburdened with committee work. Jeff proposed that we as a senate find a way for the Chair to delegate some of the seats he holds on his committees to cabinet members or other senate members elected for that purpose. That way the default representative from the senate on these various committees is not always the Chair of the Faculty. Chair Harknett said that he sees this senate representation on committees as President Williams giving the faculty a voice on these various committees. It is an opportunity for us. The idea is that if we do this right, it becomes a sustainable model where faculty have that voice. Chair Harknett said that this brings us back to an issue that Cabinet is addressing which is our electoral model. Do we want to elect or appoint people to committees? Or do we want to do both? Last year we had people losing elections which means more and more individuals want to be involved in governance. We need to think about sustainability issues and whether or not we have the right electoral system. Moreover, we need to think about representativeness as a functionality versus expertise in certain committee structures – elections of representatives or appointments from pools of experts. President Williams stated that we need to consider the issue of coherence in this matter. Are the individuals who are running for certain

committees representative of the faculty views on certain issues? Chair Harknett said that it was central to the Faculty Senate that we be in tune with the constituencies that we represent. He indicated that with some of the All University Committees we need to think about the expertise model. At-Large Senator Adrienne Lane said that on the senate web site we should have links to the committees on which we have faculty representation. She mentioned that there is a lack of clarity regarding the information flow from ACC to FCC. It is unclear what the faculty role is on FCC. It is clear what ACC is and what the faculty role is there, but not so with the FCC. Chair Harknett stated that ultimately they are very different bodies. There is some decision-making authority in ACC. The Chair of ACC is implementing any decisions being made through the Provost's office. FCC really is an advisory body. He went on to say that noting that difference does not make that advisory role a bad thing. He gave an example of the type of advisory work the FCC does. Chair-Elect Richard Miller asked how we actually get information back that way. Richard expressed the concern that often information about decision-making is clear at the college level, but not so much between colleges or at the University level. There should be more communication between colleges about issues such as semester conversion. He raised the question that if you don't have a committee from your college on these various committees how do you get the information back to your college or how do you get information from your college back up to these University committees. Senator Pamela Heaton echoed Richard Miller's concerns about data flow. Chair Harknett indicated that it may be the Deans of the various college's who are instrumental in establishing this data flow. Senator Jeff Bauer asked Dean Cady Short-Thompson about the difference in functionality between the Council of Deans and the AOC. Dean Short-Thompson indicated that while they have similar functionality that there is great value in having both groups because they look at issues from different perspectives. Chair Harknett told the Senate that their input on this issue was very helpful and he thanked President Williams for coming to the meeting. Senators were encouraged by Chair Harknett to discuss these issues with the faculty in their home colleges. He wanted Senators to think about the importance of information flow between individual colleges and the University Senate, for example, should a University Senator hold a seat on their home college senate.

6. Action Items: Vote on At Large Senator:

The Senate voted on an open at large senate seat. The cabinet met and nominated the following two individuals: Ana Vamadeva, Math, UC Blue Ash and Stephanie King, Nursing, UC East. There were no nominations from the floor. There was a motion to close nominations at that point. Ana Vamadeva of UC Blue Ash won the election and is now an At-Large Senator for the current academic year.

7. Report of Undergraduate Student Body President, Alan Hagerty:

Undergraduate Student Body President, Alan Hagerty was not in attendance at this meeting, but his report was a part of the preparatory packet for the meeting. In the near future, Chair Harknett will be meeting with the Undergraduate Student Body President and the Graduate Student Association President to plan a joint governance session to investigate student issues. In February there will be a joint meeting of the three governance bodies, Faculty Senate, Undergraduate and Graduate Student Governance Bodies. Chair Harknett said that we should be receiving a report from him in December regarding this meeting.

8. Report of Graduate Student Association President, Paulette Penzvalto :

Graduate Student Association President, Paulette was not in attendance at this meeting, but her report was a part of the preparatory packet for the meeting.

9. Report of the AAUP President , John McNay:

John McNay thanked everyone for helping to defeat Senate Bill 5. He indicated that the other thing that was important was the coalition we have built with other unions across the state. It was this collaboration that made the defeat possible. We can now begin to work cooperatively with the administration and faculty to enhance the University of Cincinnati and to make it the great University it is. The AAUP has had a teleconference call to talk about plans for the future. The coalition is having a meeting in Columbus November 11, 2011 to talk about what to do next. One of the goals of the AAUP is to try to keep this coalition together in order to work for progressive causes. He mentioned that we need to be aware that there was a press conference in Columbus where the co-founder of the Tea Party Coalition in Ohio said that they will push for a state constitutional amendment to prevent workers covered by union contracts from being required to join unions or to pay dues. The AAUP's plan is to move together with their coalition in a cooperative way and do positive things for the state of Ohio. John McNay indicated that in regard to semester conversion we have a reopening of contract negotiations that starts in January.

10. Provost Input Session:

Executive Vice President Karen Faaborg informed Chair Harknett that that Provost Ono was held in a meeting with a Trustee and would be unable to attend the meeting today.

11. New Business:

There was no new business.

12. Announcements:

Arlene Johnson asked about the work we did at the last meeting on the AMP. Chair said the AMP input was forwarded to the Academic Coordinating Committee. He said that some of our input was put into the AMP. Chair Harknett informed us that he has been asked to speak in China so Vice Chair Daniel Langemeyer will be presiding over the December Senate meeting. On the 8th we will be having a presentation Dean Bilonis and Vice President Livingston on the Diversity Plan and its roll out and implementation.

13. Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Wanda C. McCarthy, Ph.D., Secretary Faculty Senate