

Minutes of the Governance Council

September 29, 2011

Present: Duffy, Falk-Romaine, Jackson, Olaye, Phadia, Vovchuk, Zhang

Absent: Arya, Malu

The Governance Council held its first meeting of the 2011-2012 year on Thursday, September 29, 2011 during Common Hour in the Library's Reference Conference Room.

Kathy Malu, who had previously expressed interest in the position, was unanimously elected Chair.

Diane Falk-Romaine, Vice-Chair of the Senate, delivered the Charges for the coming year. She stated that the Executive Committee's top priority charge was a New Charge not included in the posted list of charges, to wit:

3. Determine manner in which faculty members will be selected to serve as liaisons to Board of Trustees committees: (1) Finance, Audit and Institutional Development (2) Educational Policy and Student Development. Issues include eligibility, term of serve, charges/responsibilities and selection process. (Senate resolution 9/13/11)

Duffy and Vovchuk agreed to take the Minutes of the Governance Council for the year.

There was a brief discussion of the requirements for Emeritus/a status in preparation for several nominations already in hand or in the pipeline. Questions were raised about the effective date of a person's retirement and when that individual would actually be eligible for consideration of Emeritus/a.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to preliminary discussion of the New Charge #3 (above) dealing with the selection/election of Faculty Senate Liaisons to the Board of Trustees' Committees. Certain "requirements" were discussed. The consensus of the Council was that a representative to such an important position should be, at the very least, a tenured faculty member/librarian or a professional staff member with at least five full years of service to the University. Such a person must have extensive knowledge of the University' structure and workings, as exhibited by previous service in the Senate or on a Senate council. Knowledge or expertise in the area(s) dealt with by the specific Board Committee is very important. Thus, a liaison to the Finance & Audit Committee and Institutional Development Committee should be conversant with at least some of these areas. A declared willingness to attend all the Board Committee meetings (which are usually held on Friday or Saturday and which often extend

well past their posted times) is essential. There was considerable diversity of opinion on how nominations should be made. Some held that anyone on campus should be able to send a nomination to the Executive Committee, while others felt that nominations should come from the Senate membership to the Executive Committee. Self-nominations would be acceptable. Still others believe that the Executive Committee should be able to recruit suitable candidates. All agreed that the liaisons should have two-year terms.

There was less disagreement on how to proceed once the Executive Committee had collected names (by whatever means). No one supported formal elections (such as for Senate membership or the ART Committee, for example). Opinions soon coalesced around two options. First, the Executive Committee would choose two names from all those obtained, and allow the full Senate to choose. Second, in line with the usual procedure for filling council and review panel slots, the Executive Committee would propose a single name (and other nominations could be made on the Senate floor). Unlike the council recommendations, the Executive Committee would have to provide reasons for its choice. Everyone in attendance agreed that the reasons why the Executive Committee did not recommend someone should not be revealed. Discussion will resume at the next meeting and, if possible, a Resolution will be drafted for presentation at the Senate meeting on November 8th.

After adjournment, there were further developments. Chairperson Malu, utilizing a Doodle schedule program, set the date and time of the next Governance Council meeting for Wednesday, October 19th. When she secures a location, she will have it posted on the Senate homepage. These Minutes will not be posted until they are corrected and approved at the 10/19 meeting.

After Vice-Chair Falk-Romaine left the Governance Council meeting on 9/29, she attended the Executive Committee meeting, at which a fourth New Charge was created for the Governance Council. It will be addressed after the current discussion has been completed.

4. Consulting the By-Laws and Constitution, consider if, how, and under what circumstances closed meetings of the Faculty Senate might be held

Bill Duffy

Revised and approved 10/19/2011