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Steering Committee

Campus Governance

10-8-2019

Steering minutes 10/08/2019

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Steering Committee Meeting
October 8, 2019

Present: Ted Pappenfus, Jennifer Goodnough, Michelle Behr, Tim Lindberg,
David Roberts, Sam Rosemark

Absent: Kari Adams, LeAnn Dean

Minutes from 9.25.19 Steering Committee meeting approved as presented with one abstention.

Minutes from 10.1.19 Campus Assembly meeting approved as presented.

Setting the next Steering Committee Meeting date (due to Fall Break). An additional meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Campus Assembly agenda and address other issues.

Identifying individuals to invite to present at the October 29 Campus Assembly for the “Campus Committee Reports” and “All University Reports”

Because we ran out of time at the last Assembly meeting, Ted will reach out to Sheri Breen about giving an FCC update. Dave said he would be willing to give a report on the All University Research Committee at anytime. Ted will reach out to James Wojtaszek, chair of Planning Committee about giving a committee report.

Proposal to recruit students to campus governance committees. Ted is proposing the following:

This proposal is in response to the fact that several student positions were not filled. Looking at alternative strategies to get students on committees.

Steering Committee will send a call to the campus via UMM-ALLEMPLOYEES at the following times with a specified due date:

- a. The first week of March in advance of Membership proposing its late April/early May committee rosters for approval
- b. At the beginning of fall semester to fill any remaining student vacancies
- c. As needed to fill student vacancies on campus committees
- d. Proposed governance committee reallocations

Nominators will be directed to a Google form which will include the following:

- Student's Name and x500/email
- Students Major(s) (if known)
- "Check which committee(s) the student would serve well"
- Why do you think your nominee would serve well on a campus committee?

Nominations would be sent to Membership to help fill vacant committee slots

Michelle wondered if MCSA had been consulted. Sam responded that MCSA is open to putting students on committees and they have been trying to recruit students to join MCSA. The feedback received is that students are already too busy. He suggested MCSA help with the Google form. Dave noted that the current practice of: Membership appoints; MCSA presents a slate; and Membership always approves, is a system that does not work and hasn't worked for decades. He liked the proposal but can see how it might be interpreted as an end-run around MCSA. The Google form could go to MCSA. Ted thought this would be complimentary to the current MCSA practice. Jenn commented that having students appointed to a committee mid-year is not ideal because the student voice is important. Michelle suggested that if Steering perceives this as a problem, perhaps Steering could brainstorm with MCSA at a forum meeting. In terms of process, it seems better to be collaborative. Sam noted that there are students serving on every committee with the exception of Planning Committee. He believes there has been a communication issue with committee chairs. Students are withdrawing from MCSA because they don't want to be a part of campus governance. Jenn wondered if there is the perception that if you are not a member of MCSA then you can't be on other committees. Dave asked what efforts are used to recruit students. Sam responded that they table, email and talk to students. He said forum is scheduled to meet on October 28 or November 4.

Ted would like to move forward with the proposal to get students on committees by the next Campus Assembly meeting. Michelle is worried about the process and this is an example of us not following process because we're not consulting with the constituency this affects. She believes Steering should talk to MCSA and get their feedback. Sam added that if faculty members want to recommend students, MCSA would love that. Jenn clarified that we wouldn't ask students to serve on MCSA; we are asking students to serve on standing or core committees. Sam said he just wants to make sure MCSA is in the loop. The more appropriate approach might be for MCSA to run the Google form. This feels a little rushed to him and he does not think we should move forward with this proposal right now. He noted again that the Planning Committee is the only committee that does not have a student member. Ted and/or Jenn will plan to attend MCSA forum. Jenn clarified the election process for Steering and Membership Committees. Sam said there's a decline in the involvement of students and there are

fewer students here than there used to be. There are also multiple task forces and search committees taking place for which students have been asked to serve.

Tim added that at some point, it might be a good idea to clarify elections and appointments as stated in the Constitution. Going forward, it would be nice to make sure people get on committees before the end of the academic year, with the exception of first year students spots. We want to make sure different constituencies continue to have their representatives.

Proposed documents to share with the newly created Ad Hoc Committee for investigating reallocation of committee assignments:

- a. Summary of Group 4 Amendments
- b. Group 4 Amendments Detail
- c. Record of Group 4 Discussions in Campus Assembly and Steering
- d.

Ted told the ad hoc group he would provide them with all of the necessary documents including the document from Michelle. Michelle reported that her designee is Dave Israels-Swenson. Jenn expects there will be some communication with Steering along the way and hopes the ad hoc group will have an open invitation to update as necessary. They do not need to wait until the deadline.

Community Hour Followup and Next Steps

Ted asked Steering to review the alternate schedule for committee meetings during community hour. Steering will discuss at the next meeting.

Ted mentioned he had received several comments from faculty. Jenn noted that initially the community hour was approved for campus governance. Tim feels that people wanted a true community hour and not a governance hour and thinks Steering shared that understanding. The document implies that it's primarily for governance. He also thinks people assumed there would be more coordination of events. Jenn asked if there are annual events that could be moved into this time period for the 2020-21 academic year that would include the campus community? E.g., A brown bag event or Prairie Gate Literary. Michelle said she is not opposed to the idea and is aware that we have a problem of too many events. How can we be more collaborative? Perhaps we could leverage the community hour to help us think through some of that.

Dave suggested we should not shoot for perfection because the previous system was far from perfect. In a previous message to Steering Committee members, he shared the following thoughts about community hour: 1) Community hour is good, and we should think in terms of modest modifications, not overhauling, 2) Dave Swenson's point was

well-taken, and we should adjust the language of our document accordingly, and 3) Nancy Carpenter's point, in my opinion, also has considerable merit. I agree with her that, to the extent that we have ability to modify, we should move in the direction where "Community hour" becomes more competitive with "Committee hour" for an accurate description of how we use our time. We could hold other small meetings and sometimes people will be double booked. The important thing is that we don't want people to be double booked every week.

Ted said we could consider holding a signature campus event each semester where we ask for proposals of items that impact the most people on campus. This could be a recurring event that would bring the campus together to showcase community hour as a community-building event. The event would not have to stop at 12:40pm. Jenn noted there are only a couple comments after Campus Assembly which is actually very good and not a massive problem to fix. Tim also suggested using community hour as a way to get people together but not necessarily for a lecture. Create time for a less formal event like take your student to coffee or participate in an informal panel in TMC. Jenn wondered about a conflict if disciplines and divisions were hoping to use that time for their meetings. Ted will contact the discipline chairs.

Extending invitations to individuals who do not routinely attend Campus Assembly.
Tabled until next meeting.

Clickers and Campus Assembly

Ted said he received a message from a faculty member asking if it would be possible to use clickers in Campus Assembly so speed up the process of voting.