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Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

10-8-2019

Consultative minutes 10/08/2019

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Consultative Committee

8 October 2019

Meeting Number 3

Imholte 115

Members present: Ann DuHamel, Terri Hawkinson, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Clement Loo, Will Rottler, Jimmy Schryver, Julia Scovil, Kristina Smith, Angela Stangl, Josh Westfield, Sheila Windingstad

Members absent: Brandon King

- I. Welcoming two new members to the committee, newly-elected Jimmy Schryver and Terri Hawkinson (replaces Janel Mendoza), we first had a round of introductions.
- II. Review the charges of the Consultative Committee and Steering Committee as per UMM Constitution.
 - After the report we heard at our last meeting that the Dean and Chancellor feel the roles of Steering and Consultative Committees are unclear, redundant, etc., Margaret spoke briefly to Ted Pappenfus, chair of Steering, about the idea of meeting with Steering (or a subcommittee) relatively soon to discuss how to more clearly differentiate the roles of the two committees. He agreed that would be a good idea. So, at today's meeting we look at the UMM Constitution to sort out what it says about the matter and to brainstorm about how we might suggest structuring the role of each committee to avoid confusion and overlap.
 - Steering Committee:
 - Constituencies are not equally represented
 - Charge seems to be mainly to manage Campus Assembly; however, the phrase, "D. To advise the administration on issues that do not fall under the purview of any assembly committee" causes confusion.
 - The Chancellor is a voting member of Steering – it seems like this could sometimes be a conflict of interest or, at the very least, doesn't provide much oversight by an independent entity.
 - Consultative Committee:
 - Equal representation of faculty, staff, P&A and students
 - Administrators are expressly prohibited from election to Consultative which allows freer discussion, especially by individuals who are on annual contracts and could fear reprisal for expressing views that challenge authority.
 - The phrase "...the Consultative Committee serves as a campus sounding board for *those who wish to seek input or feedback* on proposals or initiatives related to campus governance prior to submitting them to the Steering Committee" is what causes confusion.

- A lot of activity on campus is rather compartmentalized and, given the recent vote to abolish a number of committees, does Consultative have a role in taking on some of the consultation that should occur among directors of various campus units that used to be done in the abolished committees (e.g., Academic Support Services)?
- Should we come up with a bulleted list of committee duties to open a discussion with Steering?
- Perhaps we need to define what consultation really means in the context of campus affairs. Would Consultative receive proposals and put proposers in touch with relevant constituencies? We could certainly help inform the campus community about proposals. Sometimes, Consultative might suggest other constituencies who should be consulted before action is taken.
- Chancellor would consult with Consultative about big items – e.g., recently, how to organize strategic planning process (though Planning Committee would be even better), how to structure the Dean’s search and who should chair it, and any other initiatives that have broad campus impact and would benefit from broad input (especially early in the process).
- In the distant past, the Chair of Consultative was often recruited to be an important face of the campus in such venues as the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee.
- Should there be some kind of form that is a request to consult? This would help channel work to appropriate committees.
- Are there differences in process for information/requests coming from below, rather than above (knowing that we AREN’T a grievance committee)?
- A big problem with the current Community Hour structure is getting administrators on our agenda; for example, Steering and Consultative meet at the same time, and since the Chancellor is on the Steering Committee she can’t come to Consultative. UMM Consultative charge should be modeled after the system-wide FCC (without the charge to be a steering committee)
- A subcommittee to meet with Steering was formed: Angie, Clement Jimmy, Josh

III. Election of Chair/Co-chair – Angie willing to co-chair if there’s a faculty co-chair. Margaret agreed to continue on as co-chair, despite a very busy fall schedule. The pair was elected by acclamation.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 12 November 2019

Adjournment time: 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Kuchenreuther, Associate Professor of Biology

Date submitted to Digital Well: