

Forum on Faculty Governance Proposal: Session 2
MMTH Auditorium
November 19, 2013

Members of Ad Hoc Faculty Governance Committee:

- Brian Coutts, Libraries
- Kelly Madole, Psychology

SEC Representatives

- Tucker Davis, Faculty Welfare Committee
- John Gottfried, Libraries
- J. Gottfried took notes

Audience:

- 3 faculty members attended

The session opened with an introduction and brief history of the Faculty Governance Committee's work by Brian Coutts and Kelly Madole. They summarized the proposal and explained some of the main points.

- Concept arose because Faculty Senate seemed to some to be bogged down in heavy curriculum workload
- Proposal: Split the Senate into two bodies, one to focus on issues related to curriculum and the other to focus on faculty welfare, benefits and other issues
- Trying to create a balanced approach
- Representatives
 - 3-year terms
 - No term limits (though the committee had mixed views on this)
 - Terms should be staggered so that roughly a third of the representatives turn over each year
- Committee also recognized need for a part-time administrative assistant to take over some of the administrative workload
- Will include an Instructional Council composed of Assistant Deans to iron out course conflicts
- Proposals will pass through the required committees and sub-committees simultaneously

Discussion:

- Question: If these course proposals are moving through all bodies simultaneously, what happens if one group declines the proposal?
- Answer:
 - Proposal will be moving through the system at the same time, but there will be considerable communication among the groups
 - Electronic communication will allow this to happen quickly and efficiently
 - There will be an executive committee to control movement and disagreements

- Comment from panel member: In the old days the Curriculum Council was fractious and time-consuming, but modern methods will allow things to move more quickly.
- Panel members noted that the Proposal is now in the hands of the Senate, and they asked if the Senate is going to move forward.
 - Response from SEC representative: we have to check with Faculty Senate chair
 - Plan is to return to SEC for deliberation, then move for a vote in the spring semester
 - May need to negotiate several points