

University Council Update

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Governance Council Update: May 13th – August 15th

GOV met on May 13th

Senate Chair Wagner and Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula attended the meeting to discuss the Provost Search Committee. A review of the procedures for formal consultation was conducted referencing the following materials:

State University of New York Policies of the Board of Trustees, ARTICLE IX: COLLEGE OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS, TITLE B. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, § 2. Appointment. Appointments of all college administrative officers and professional staff not in a negotiating unit established pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law shall be made by the chief administrative officer of the college; such appointments shall be reported to the Chancellor. Appointment of academic officers such as vice-president for academic affairs, academic deans and others with similar responsibilities shall be made after consultation with the faculty.

Faculty Bylaws of the University at Albany, Article I. Section 2.5 Faculty Participation in Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies. Administrators may choose to advance their leadership vision for the University by constituting special committees and task forces, selecting individual faculty members because of their experience or expertise. Ideally, such advisory groups shall be constituted in consultation with the Governance Council of the University Senate and lines of communication with relevant governance bodies shall be enunciated. In any case, such groups do not represent the Faculty as a whole and advice from such groups does not replace approval by or formal consultation with the Faculty. Such groups may freely provide advice; however, for such groups to be considered part of the formal consultative process, a majority of the faculty members must either be appointed by, or their recommended appointment approved by, the Senate Governance Council, as specified in Article 2, Section 5.5, and specific faculty members must be designated to regularly report to the Senate. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate shall be consulted in the composition of all major University level search committees and committees to select honorary degree recipients.

Senate Chair Wagner's understanding was that to be considered formal consultation GOV could either approve a majority (51%) of the slate of faculty names A) GOV recommended or B) recommended by the President. In this context, faculty are 'rank and file' teaching faculty who are not playing another role, such as a Dean.

Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula clarified that the Provost Search Committee had not been formed but, per the intended message from the President at the last Senate meeting, was on the way to becoming formalized. Candidates had since been notified of their nominations to serve, pending GOV's approval. Responses were due by the close of business that Wednesday. A total of 17 members would include a range of representation from different units: 9 'rank and file' teaching faculty, 4 academic leaders who also hold tenure, and 4 administrators. An open call for nominations went out to the campus in the February 28th

announcement regarding the transition. The President also requested the Deans and GOV provide a proposed slate of faculty or staff.

GOV agreed to meet on Thursday, May 15th to review and vote on the President's proposed membership and to share any concerns. The list would be provided at that time.

Amendment RE: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to amend the Charter as follows:

Proposed Revision:

The following change was proposed:

X.1.3.3. The Committee shall develop and ~~regularly~~ administer assessment instruments, conduct data analysis and report findings to the Council **on a two-year cycle.**

Chair Stefl-Mabry said that she would send out the formal amendment to the GOV committee for a final review via email.

GOV met on Thursday, May 15th

The council reviewed the President's proposed membership, and sent its recommendations to the President.

On May 16th, Chair Stefl-Mabry received an email from Chief of Staff Wirkkula responding to the Governance Council's recommendations and asking GOV to vote on the amended list. Chief of Staff Wirkkula commented that the President had appreciated GOV's insight and constructive feedback. An email vote was conducted and GOV voted unanimously to accept the proposed slate.

On May 18th, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula to inform her that the Governance Council had (via email) approved the final slate of the Provost's Search Committee, as proposed by the President, after consultation with the Governance Council.

July 8th: Michael Christakis sent an email to Chair Wagner, informing her that since Candace Merbler had resigned from the UAS Board of Directors right around the end of the semester in May, and pursuant to UAS Bylaws, vacancies from "constituent groups" (in this case the "faculty"/the University Senate) shall be filled by said constituency group until the next such election takes place (in the spring, in this case), it fell upon the Governance Council to appoint a replacement for the UAS Board until the next election cycle.

On July 9th Chair Wagner sent the request to GOV to appoint a replacement for the UAS Board. On July 9th, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to GOV with a list of prospective candidates and asked GOV to vote via email. By July 14th a quorum had been reached and Chair Stefl-Mabry notified Senate Chair Wagner that by means of an email poll, the Governance Council had voted to accept the nomination of Gary Kleppel to the UAS Board as a replacement for Candance Merbler.

August 15th

Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to GOV with the rewritten Amendment re: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation Although the Council had already voted to accept the amendment, Chair Stefl-Mabry asked GOV to review the Amendment and rationale and share their thoughts re: the rationale:

Rationale:

The Governance Council has concluded it is important to institutionalize systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of governance in representing its constituencies, in addressing issues and concerns, and in affecting institutional decisions. This would support “the development of stable expectations and working relationships” as recommended in the 2009 Middle States Report, Chapter 4, p. 2 (see <https://wiki.albany.edu/display/middlestates/Home>). Although the recommendation put forward in the 2009 Middle States Report was for annual campus surveys of faculty (see quote below) the Governance Council has decided that a two year cycle would more effectively support a process of survey development, implementation, analysis, presentation of results and revision.

“It is strongly recommended that the campus survey of faculty completed for the Middle States self-study be done annually as a way to monitor faculty views and conditions at the University” (Chapter 4: *Leadership, Governance and Administration*, p. 8).

Once again, GOV voted unanimously to accept the Amendment.

Assessment of Governance and Consultation Ad Hoc Committee

Joel Bloom, Director of Academic Assessment & Survey Research, has been working with GOV on the implementation of the shared governance and consultation surveys. Bloom sent Chair Stefl-Mabry the results of the student and faculty and professional staff survey. GOV is currently working on analyzing the results of the survey and will share a preliminary report with GOV in the next few weeks.