University Senate Governance & Communication Committee

Report to the Senate December 1, 2014

1. The G&C Committee met on Friday, November 19, 2014, on the Health Science campus. Our committee meetings alternate locations between the two major GRU campuses. We presently have five subcommittees working issues.
   a. The Bylaws and Statutes Review Subcommittee (chair: Emam Hoosain, COE) is waiting for the results of the faculty vote, which will change how future changes to the Senate Bylaws and the University Statutes are approved. There are several pending changes to both that will be needed, including a new ballot on all changes already “approved” by the faculty before we realized that the method we had used was itself faulty. We will be working with the Vice Chair to propose those changes to the Senate as well as “new” changes that may be needed, before they are placed on a faculty ballot. Our goal is to have this process completed during spring semester.
   b. The Faculty Evaluation of Administrators Subcommittee (chair: Lindsay Blake, Library) is following up on the Press-Ganey results, which were briefed to the Senate on October 6th and subsequently to each college; college and department recommendations are being worked now.
      i. Lindsay Blake reviewed her notes from a meeting with HR’s Susan Norton in October. There is uncertainty as to when the next survey will be conducted.
      ii. The process that will be used for engagement surveys in the future was discussed, including:
          1. Frequency of surveys – 2 year cycle? (TBD)
          2. Time for action plans to be implemented and results seen prior to the next survey.
          3. Colleges or Departments may want to conduct surveys at different intervals from the University.
      iii. Concerns were also discussed including:
          1. There is no evaluation of the Provost’s staff in the Press Ganey survey. To include this in the survey would have made it too cumbersome. The use of Peer/Key Relationship evaluations would address this.
          2. The Peer/Key Relationship evaluation will also include senior administrators (VP’s, SVP’s, etc.) as well as Associate / Assistant Deans and Vice Chairs.
c. The Intrafaculty Communications Subcommittee (chair: Walter Moore, MCG) has ascertained that there is no current faculty communication plan. Walter is working with Dr. Karla Leeper, who is Dr. Azziz’s Chief of Staff, to generate an overall plan.
   i. Walter raised the question of the availability and regulation of the GRU Faculty list serv. Walter is working with Jack Evans (Interim Vice President of Communications and Marketing) to establish a listserv faculty hierarchy for departments, colleges, and the university.
   ii. Walter is also looking into the GRU policy for social media: Facebook, Twitter, etc.

d. The Nomination and Election Subcommittee (chaired by Julie Zadinsky, CON) has recommended a timeline to the Executive Committee, to solicit nominations for filling University-wide and College-wide offices that will be due for a vote the end of this academic year. This includes elections for next year’s Senators and Committee Members. The goal is to have elections completed and new committee chairs in place before the end of the spring semester. The subcommittee recommended:
   i. Move the election of College representatives for each committee to earlier in the spring semester.
   ii. Elect a new committee chair prior to the final meeting of the academic year.
   iii. Install the new chair at that final meeting.
   iv. Have newly elected representatives as well as departing representatives both attend the final meeting.
   v. Set a date for the first fall meeting at the final meeting.

e. The Policy Review Subcommittee (chaired by Robert Scott, CoSM) reports that the University’s Policy Review Group (PRG) has now met twice, with a third meeting scheduled before fall semester ends. We anticipate that there will be draft policies put forward that will entail review by other Senate committees that will need to be completed by the February meeting of the Senate.
   i. Draft “Institutional Admissions Policy” (Policy Owner is the Office of Academic Admissions): was assigned to the Student Affairs Committee, for review in September, since the Bylaws task that committee with making “recommendations ... on GRU admissions requirements.” Note that there is a requirement by the BOR for review and subsequent approval by the University Senate:
      [Link to article](http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section3/policy/C337/#p3.2.4_faculty_rules_and_regulations). We are awaiting the results of that review.
ii. The Intellectual Diversity Policy was recommended for cancellation by the Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee; that recommendation has been approved by the “Policy Owner” (Dr. Rychly), and it will be cancelled once the appropriate paperwork is signed by the President.

iii. There is a new “Core Committee” chaired by Dr. Scott at the behest of Dr. Rychly, to recommend a new GRU Faculty Manual. This committee consists of leadership members (usually the chairs) of the following Senate committees: Governance and Communication, Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Student Affairs, Curriculum and Academic Policies, and Faculty Development. We have met twice (including earlier on December 1st), and anticipate forwarding a “List of Proposed Contents” for Senate approval at the February Senate meeting. The goal is to have the document itself completed at least in draft form, by the end of spring semester.

2. Our next Governance and Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for the week of January 19th, on the Summerville campus; we will announce the exact date and location following a Doodle Poll of our membership at the beginning of spring semester.