University Senate Governance & Communication Committee

Report to the Senate September 8, 2014

1. The G&C Committee met on Friday, August 22, 2014. We presently have four subcommittees working issues.

   a. The Bylaws and Statutes Review Subcommittee (chair: Emam Hoosain, COE) has reviewed the proposed Bylaws changes forwarded to the Faculty last spring for approval. Here’s what we are doing about the current vote on our Bylaws:

      i. We’ve modified the process slightly, to include not only the Bylaws changes but also changes to the corresponding sections of the Statutes. By voting to approve the change, the faculty member votes to approve changing both documents to keep them consistent. There are eight (8) changes in total being considered at this point, three (3) of which affect both documents.

      ii. We’re putting up a web page for comments on each of the proposed changes, and will change the due date for the vote itself until after 2 or 3 weeks go by. That way, faculty members can consider one another’s comments and recommendations before voting.

      iii. We’re modifying the vote process so each of the eight can be voted for or against separately, rather than as a package.

      iv. We will assist the new Vice Chair in the overall review of the Bylaws once these changes are approved or disapproved; there are still some minor modifications that the subcommittee recommends, which were not included among the current eight.

   b. The Intrafaculty Communications Subcommittee (chair: Walter Moore, MCG) is tasked with working with the Provost’s Office and IT, to come up with an understandable way for faculty to send email notifications to “all” faculty; this means for both “Official” and “Unofficial” emails, and to both “Full Time Faculty” and “Part Time Faculty” (put together they would constitute “All Faculty”). Likely the answer will be in those four separate categories.

   c. The Nomination and Election Subcommittee (chaired by Mariana D’Amico, CoAH) has recommended a timeline to the Executive Committee, to solicit nominations for filling University-wide offices that will be due for a vote the end of this academic year. Per the Bylaws, all these elections should occur during spring semester each year, so that the Senate and Committees are filled in August when the new academic year starts.
d. The Policy Review Subcommittee (chaired by Robert Scott, CoSM) has met with the University’s Policy Review Group twice over the summer. There are presently two draft Policies that will require Faculty Review, with more expected this semester. It is requested that these reviews be completed by the October meeting of the Senate, so the Senate can vote to forward them with or without change, back to the respective Policy Owners:

i. Draft “Management and Administration of Sponsored Projects” (Policy Owner is the SVP for Research): Assigned to the Faculty Development Committee

ii. Draft “Institutional Admissions Policy” (Policy Owner is the Office of Academic Admissions): Assigned to the Student Affairs Committee, 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: [http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section3/policy/C337/#p3.2.4_faculty_rules_and_regulations](http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section3/policy/C337/#p3.2.4_faculty_rules_and_regulations)

2. Our next meeting will be the week of either September 15th or September 22nd.