

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 5, 2013
Hanson Hall of Science 102
10:30 AM

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate chair, Wendy Hilton-Morrow. Roll call was taken by Brian Katz.

Members unable to attend: Kelly Daniels, Farah Marklevits, Mindi Mull, Paul Olsen, Mike Schroeder, Jim vanHowe, Fred Whiteside

Members excused: Dan Culver, Nina Ehrlich, Kevin Geedey, Steve Hager, Jon Hurty, Marsha Smith, Mark Vincent

2. A correction was made to the 5-3-13 minutes of the new 2013-2014 faculty senate. Eric Stewart should be recorded as excused.

Motion-Wegman-Geedey, **Second-**Dehnel

“To approve the minutes from the May 3, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting of 2012-13 and the minutes from the May 3, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting of 2013-14 as revised.”

MOTION CARRIED

3. **Discussion of Faculty Governance Structure**

Wendy Hilton-Morrow reviewed the charge to the 2013-2014 Faculty Senate made by the 2012-2013 Faculty Senate, which was to:

- 1) consider, clarify and prioritize role/responsibilities of Senate;
- 2) consider number of members of Senate necessary to appropriately address responsibilities of Senate;
- 3) consider distribution of Senate membership...through rank, division, or combination;
- 4) consider how to address absenteeism
- 5) consider an 'opt in' ballot preparation for Senate elections.

The senate chair invited discussion of this charge. In order to facilitate the discussion, senators were divided into groups and were asked to discuss four questions:

- 1) What is necessary for effective faculty governance at Augustana? (e.g. mechanism for approving curriculum changes in a timely manner; balanced and coherent division structure, workable committee structures, avenue for dialogue between faculty and administration, etc.).
- 2) What are we already doing to ensure effective faculty governance?
- 3) How could we improve upon what we already are doing?
- 4) In what areas of effective faculty governance are we lacking?

Responses from Question #1 (What is necessary for effective faculty governance?):

- People committed to actually reading meeting materials prior to meeting; and ensure materials are sent to senators ahead of time
- Rethink the Consent Agenda and its purpose, especially if the purpose is to rubber stamp

- Eliminate senate being a rubber stamp for the work of other committees. Senate should primarily be a venue for dialogue.
- Provide space for dialogue between faculty and administration
- Smaller number of senators – (larger group promotes social loafing [people deliberately exerting less effort to achieve a goal when they work in a group than when they work alone])
- Coherence between broader goals of the college and committee structure
- Define clear charge and division in labor
- Reduce number of committees or size of committees (workload/time issues)
- Equal representation on senate, instead of rank
- Does divisional structure make sense? If divisional representation is necessary, consider division of misfits
- Needs to be streamlined and efficient
- Need for advocacy for those who can't speak safely publicly
- Devise mechanism or empower committee structure to approve curricular changes in a more timely and efficient manner
- Redefine role of senate and what its role is
- Require those interested in serving on senate to write a short paragraph why
- Provide decision flow chart so that people know how things go through governance (and beyond that, benefits chart, etc.)
- Review results of the Committee on Committees work
- Trust (work of other committees)!!! Communication!!! Transparency in decision making; mechanism to inform entire faculty of decision making
- Deliberative space (senate?) (role of senate)
- Decision-making space

Responses from Questions #2a, 2b, 2c (What are we already doing well/ how can we improve?):

- Communicating by email is working
- David English's monthly sessions are a good idea; provides time for dialogue
- How to balance day-to-day decision making with dealing with larger structural issues.
- Consent agenda is going well; provides for a last chance; aids in transparency
- Senate should weigh in on bigger issues and be more involved. Senators like discussing important issues.
- Senate should be a smaller body (~15), a mix of divisional and all rank representatives.
- Set term of office at 3-4 years and after term is up member takes at least one year off
- Rotation on and access to interesting committees is a strength
- Committees are too large for people to know each other and make decisions/have discussion
- We don't do a good job of engaging the discussions we do have, in connecting them to changes and to impacts
- Enforce time limits for open discussion at senate meetings
- Find ways to discuss ideas in writing without incurring the full dust-up
- If we use the new momentum of small group discussions, we need a mechanism to funnel that information usefully and easily
- There are too many committees
- Need to improve information dispensation; how information gets delivered
- There is a good amount of venues where faculty can be heard on campus

- More open and direct conversation from administration. Faculty unsure about what they are governing.
- Senate needs to be an advocacy arm between faculty and administration
- If we want effective representation, need to be more inclusive, co-curricular representation on senate. Need to rethink the role and responsibilities of senate and then figure out who should be represented on that body.

Motion-Dehnel, Second-Kaul

“To charge Faculty Senate Steering to consider the discussion that took place at the 9-5-13 Faculty Senate meeting in order to write out a set of goals and priorities for further discussion.”

MOTION CARRIED

4.0 New Business

Wendy Hilton-Morrow read a short thank you from Augustana College Board member Kim Brunner regarding the honorary degree conferred to him by faculty senate last year:

“It was an honor to receive this recognition [the honorary degree], and it meant a great deal to me to have the support of the faculty...please accept my sincere thanks for this honor and please let your colleagues know how much they mean to me. I have the utmost respect for them.”

A member asked if the senate chair would forward a copy of the main points of the discussion to all senators and start some kind of email discussion or blog so that more discussion can transpire.

5.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Office of Academic Affairs