

Annual Report of the Committee on Faculty Governance.
2004-2005

In addition to being a very busy year for CFG, 2004-2005 was also the final year of the committee's existence. Indeed, of the many issues CFG handled this year, the first and perhaps most significant for faculty governance in the long-term was the vote by the faculty at the November meeting to adopt the revised and streamlined committee system CFG designed in 2003-2004. By endorsing the proposal by a significant margin, the faculty reduced committee seats by almost 30%, retired some committees or subsumed their functions on other committees, and created a new Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) to work in tandem with a redesigned Institutional Planning and Policy Committee (IPPC). The expectations for this new governance organization are high: we look forward to more substantive input with the administration in the energetic management of the business of the faculty.

The first semester was devoted to the work of implementation of the new system with the inauguration of a new election system consisting of two rounds, one in fall, one in Spring, and a final omnibus ballot in April/May. The timing of this year's election was affected by the lateness of the vote described above and will change next year to come more in line with what will be the standard procedure henceforth. The second semester was heavily invested with the two searches for a new Dean of Faculty and a new Dean of Special Programs. As necessary, CFG consulted with CAPT regarding the searches themselves, and consequent questions about relevant faculty handbook language.

CFG conducted special elections to form the committee for the recruitment of the new Dean of Faculty. That search and its ramifications for the splitting of the VPAA/DOF position occupied us for the latter part of the fall and into the spring term. Consultations took place regularly with search consultant Tobie van der Vorm, with search chair Chuck Joseph, with Phil Glotzbach, and with Mark Hoffmann, faculty chair of the search. CFG was also asked by the search committee to moderate the open meetings with the three on-campus finalists. This regular and prompt communication helped the community feel ownership of the process.

CFG conducted two faculty-only meetings and two meetings of the Committee of Committees. The magnitude of administrative and governance changes undertaken during this academic year resulted in failures in communication, most pointedly with regard to contemplated changes in the Dean of Studies office. The outgoing members of CFG and the incoming members of FEC/IPPC who were available to do so met on June 27th with the President Glotzbach and Vice President Joseph to register their concerns. The new FEC/IPPC will revisit the matter as a priority of the fall 2006 agenda.

In concluding what is CFG's final report, the Chair would like to express his appreciation on behalf of the committee for the support the faculty has demonstrated for the new governance system. It is a great pleasure as well to thank the members of the committee: Tim Burns, Katie Hauser, Tad Kuroda Susan Kress and Joanna Zangrando for their extraordinary service; and to salute Joanna, who will begin a phased retirement in the fall, and Tad, who retired this May, for the many years they have spent defining college citizenship, and for showing the rest of us about how to be graceful at it to boot.

Respectfully submitted,

John Anzalone
July 1, 2005