

Committee of Committees Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2016

FEC (Denise Smith)

Denise opened the Committee of Committees meeting with a thank you to all the committees on behalf of FEC for the service they do for the college. She, after reviewing the purpose of the C of C meeting, asked all committees to review, and possibly simplify, their membership requirements to allow for the greatest faculty preference in governance service. In addition, Denise reminded the committee chairs to update their committee operating codes and submit their annual reports.

FEC will continue the implementation of the new election system, working with IT to make the process seamless in both faculty preference selection and ballot building.

FEC's interactions with the administration have been uniformly good, although not extensive. The administration, especially the DoF/VPAA, has been generous with its time and help. FEC has a very collegial and cooperative relationship with the administration.

CAPT (Mehmet Odekon)

CAPT had a good year, one that was quiet overall. As usual, they focused on promotion and tenure.

CAPT's relationship with the administration was good, even when they disagreed with each other.

CAFR (Mao Chen)

CAFR had a very busy year. It had three informal cases, one of which evolved into a formal case. CAFR just sent its final report on this case to the president and the DoF/VPAA. It is currently contacting those people who are involved in the case. CAFR adjudicated another informal case last summer from the end of July until the beginning of August. This case concluded amicably.

CAFR's relationship with the administration has been, in general, very good.

Curriculum Committee (Larry Jorgensen)

CC has enjoyed good relations with the administration. There have been some cases where good relations between the CC and the administration have been very important. This has been especially true as CC has worked on formulating curricular proposals. There have been some resource issues with the administration and CC has been in dialogue with the DoF/VPAA office about these resource questions. In particular, CC has worked closely with the

DoF/VPAA to document both past and current practices regarding course cap exceptions. This documentation was added to the CC operating code. CC has had no other engagement with the administration. The semester has run smoothly for the CC.

FDC (Greg Pfitzer)

FDC was busy, as always. It spent most of its time reviewing applications/nominations for awards. The committee's major challenge occurred this year when it sought to distribute awards for summer collaborative research. Most of its struggles were due to the number of applications it received for summer research funding, a number that was much larger than the number of proposals FDC had the money to award. FDC had 89 applications for summer research support this year. If FDC had funded all of the qualified work, it would have gone \$146,000 over its budget for summer collaborative research. In a previous year when FEC encountered a similar number of excess requests, the President's office gave it the money it needed to cover the shortfall, but the President's office was unable to do that this year. FDC is working on changes that will make granting the awards less difficult in the future. The Dean of Faculty's office has been helpful in working through these problems, particularly through ex officio committee member Crystal Moore.

CEPP (Kelly Sheppard)

CEPP has been working primarily on revising the general education curriculum. It has also been looking at academic prizes. It has, finally, had discussions about a proposal to create a Restorative Justice Center on campus.

CAS asked CEPP to consider a proposal to eliminate the fee students must pay if they decide to take a credit overload. CEPP has had a number of discussions with the administration about the resource implications of discontinuing this fee.

The administration has always been cordial with and responsive to CEPP.

Athletic Council (Mark Huibregtse)

AC reported that it has been a relatively quiet year for the committee. AC has fulfilled its standard agenda as stipulated by the NCAA. In addition, AC reviews one group of PA (physical activity) instructors each year. This year, AC reviewed the riding instructors. There are a few issues still pending, including a discussion of the possibility of athletes earning academic credit similar to the PA model already in place. A subcommittee worked on this and reported to the President. The NCAA Division III self study was done this year and documented, as required.

Relations with the administration are fine. Gail Cummings-Danson has been acting as both the Athletic Director and the Interim Dean of Students. She

has done a great job. The AC suggested that a member of the DoF/VPAA's office should sit on the AC. Corey Freeman-Gallant did so as a guest this year.

IPPC (Tim Harper)

The relationship between faculty on IPPC with the administration is good, but the faculty continue to be concerned with structural and operational issues. A theme that ties together many concerns is that the role of the faculty (and, to some extent, the role of IPPC) is not clear. The faculty feel like decisions on IPPC are often made quickly, and sometimes with information that has been deemed confidential. These conditions have prevented the faculty committee members from discussing policy changes with other faculty members—their constituents. That said, the committee members are not entirely certain whether they are meant to gather input from other faculty, or whether they are meant to speak without input as elected representatives of the faculty. Mehmet said that the term "confidentiality" is a change from past practice, when a more common term was "discretion." Allowing faculty to treat information with discretion rather than confidentially would allow for easier communication between faculty on IPPC and their constituents.

It is often not clear to the faculty what is going to be voted on by IPPC and why. It is troubling to committee members that IPPC is asked to vote on policies before there has been community input. Denise Smith pointed out that votes in IPPC often seem to be held to endorse decisions made elsewhere, rather than to actually make a policy decision.

Regarding membership and representation, Mark Huibregtse said that he served on IPPC at a time when all the faculty members on IPPC also served on FEC. IPPC faculty even then had different views of their roles on the committee. Mark also asked Kelly Sheppard if having the CEPP chair on IPPC has been useful? Kelly responded that there is lack of clarity in his role as well; specifically, whether he should only be representing CEPP, or whether he should be acting as a faculty representative to the committee.

Finally, there was some discussion of differences between presentations made to IPPC subcommittees and to the full IPPC. Sometimes separate presentations by a single individual have similar information but a different tone in the different meetings. This has made it difficult to know what the individual's true thoughts are.

CIGU (Cindy Evans)

CIGU invested most of its energy this year in finalizing and submitting recommendations to IPPC and meeting with candidates for the Vice President for Student Affairs position. CIGU's one concern was that while IPPC has responded positively to its recommendations, it has not yet decided to move forward on these recommendations. While Beau did ask IPPC to provide the administration with a roadmap for moving forward, CIGU thinks that IPPC should work on the specifics of its recommendations.

CIGU does not know what real authority it has. It is unclear to CIGU if it has the means to implement its recommendations. Some of its recommendations involve curriculum changes (e.g., its proposal for an Africana Studies program). Some members of CIGU, particularly those who have been on the committee for 10 years or more, are a little frustrated that while they have been able to distill and refine priorities, they have been unable to take any action to implement their proposals. They hope that the new Vice President for Student Affairs will help it to address these concerns.

CAS (David Cohen)

CAS reported that it had its usual busy year managing many students with difficulties. One major accomplishment was CAS's proposal to IPPC to eliminate the overload fee starting in fiscal year 2018. CAS revised its operating code to allow Ws (withdrawals) from FYE courses. CAS also discussed issues about maturity credits, and it continues to examine grade inflation at the college.

CAS's relations with the administration have been excellent and, in fact, CAS is driven by the administration since the faculty constitute only a minority of the membership of the committee.