

The Faculty Executive Committee convened the Committee of Committees on December 4, 2008. As charged by the Faculty Handbook, FEC gathered with the chairs of CAPT, CEPP, Curriculum Committee, FDC, Athletic Council, and CAFR “to assess the interactions among committees and between them and the administration, and to discuss ongoing issues and any problems in committee operations.” We are now “required to inform the faculty at large of the issues raised by the Committee of Committees” (Faculty Handbook, p. 208).

At the meeting, we learned that there are no concerns among any of the committees with respect to relations between them or with the administration. Some apprehension was expressed about how the current budgetary challenges will affect certain institutional initiatives but there is collective understanding about the necessary measures that need to be taken to negotiate these difficult circumstances.

We also had a conversation initiated by members of FEC about the governance system in general. Two main themes emerged. First, the challenge in getting faculty to sign up for committees, including at times those central to governance such (e.g., IPPC, FEC, CAFR) has been on our minds. FEC’s preliminary research indicates that we now have more committee spots for faculty than we do faculty available to serve in those positions.

A second concern revolves around the operations of IPPC. There is concern about whether the IPPC cluster (with its main committee, five subcommittees, and one sub-subcommittee comprising some 75 committee spots for faculty, staff and students) and how it has been structurally linked to FEC (by way of three IPPC faculty representatives who are members of FEC) represents the best balance of collaborative governance, faculty influence and efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

John Brueggemann

The Faculty Executive Committee
Lisa Aronson
John Brueggemann (Chair)
Jennifer Delton
Pat Hilleran
Dan Hurwitz
Phyllis Roth (added as a replacement for 08-09)
Natalie Taylor