

Committee on Committees
December 1, 2011
11:00AM – Steinbrenner Band Hall Conference Room

Present: Lori Thomas, Laura Sutton, Stacey Galloway, Shiva Megerman, Damian Adams

Mark Bishop-previous chair; need to find/contact for previous years minutes

Issue to be considered:

From Scott Nygren: A Constitutional issue emerged from the Faculty Senate Policy Council elections last spring. A number of Policy Councils decided to elect co-chairs, although there is no provision for this in the Constitution or Bylaws. On Council's advice, I've asked each of these councils to determine which of the co-chairs count as the voting chair on the Steering Committee, since the Constitution or Bylaws specify this as a singular and not a shared position.

Since the University Constitution Committee is responsible for language and not policy, they suggest that the committee on Committee is responsible for language and not policy, they suggested that the Committee on Committees consider the issue.

Would the Committee on Committees be willing to discuss the co-chair issue: whether co-chairs should be allowed or avoided? And what changes in the constitution or Bylaws might be involved to clarify this?

From Jay - Barbara Wingo's input: The constitution and bylaws provide for chairs of committees and councils. In a couple of instances there is a provision for a co-chair (but at the same time there is a chair)—Curriculum Committee and General Education Committee. Chairs have voting rights on other committees or councils in many instances so there must be a chair identified under the current Constitutional/bylaw structure. For example, only the chairs of the respective councils have the right to vote as members of the Steering Committee. Any change to that would request amendment of the constitution.

Shiva talked about Danaya (from Law, helped write constitution), her opinion - didn't mind changing by-laws; but didn't think co-chairs should get a vote.

Her suggestion : provide co-chair or vice-chair, where both *can* vote, only 1 at a time/ 1 vote per meeting.

Discussion of CoC: Should be either/or

Stacey countered that 4 of 5 committees have co-chairs

Discussion – the issue is the voting on council/steering committee

Discussion – the “vice-chair” position could encourage more involvement and make it easier for individuals to move up within committees.

Laura – In Nursing, only chair position gets credit during tenure and promotion process; ‘vice-chair’ is not credited; this depends on college/department, but could be a factor.

Co-chair vs. Vice-chair

- 1) Committees may appoint “co-chairs” with the understanding that each committee/council is only allowed one vote each. Especially any committee doing Senate business.
- 2)
- 3) Damian moved and Shiva seconded

Old Business

Committee on Committee work- evaluation of committees

Discussion – what is the charge of the CoC, what had been done and what still needed to be done. Need to find Mark Bishop to get minutes and information for previous year.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Watkins, chair