

Minutes of the Governance Council

October 19, 2011

Members present: Malu, Duffy, Vovchuk, Jackson, Olaye, Phadia, Zhang

Members absent: A. Arya

1. The council reviewed last meeting's activities and discussions.
2. The minutes of the September 29 meeting were approved with corrections.
3. One person suggested making a distinction between policy and procedural recommendations to the Senate, especially regarding the issue of liaison selection currently under discussion.
4. After extensive discussion on multiple resolution points and considering this suggestion mentioned above, the council, using Duffy's draft resolutions, decided on a draft policy resolution and a draft procedural resolution for the selection of faculty liaisons to the Board of Trustees. Duffy will circulate final drafts of both for comments and approval by the council.
5. The council discussed the fourth charge, regarding closed meetings of the Faculty Senate. A member suggested closed meetings be possible based on certain issues, especially regarding administrative evaluations. There was some support for the idea of closed sessions for issues where the faculty would want to discuss issues freely without the presence of administrators, issues where the presence of administrators would greatly inhibit faculty discussion, but there were equal numbers opposing this position. All agreed that closed sessions might be appropriate in emergency situations. Since such an action – barring the public and ex-officio members of the Senate from a closed meeting – is and should be a rarely-used and serious matter, it was proposed that a 75% majority vote of present senators (by closed ballot) would be required for the establishment of a closed session. Duffy will draft a resolution and circulate it for comments and input from the council. The council will vote on this matter at the next meeting.
6. The time and location of the next meeting was discussed. Malu will circulate a Doodle poll to establish the time.
7. The council thanks Duffy for taking the initiative to draft the resolutions regarding the faculty liaisons, and for the time and effort involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vovchuk