

Governance Committee Meeting of April 20, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Patricia Brennan, Gray Crouse, Yayoi Everett, Robin Forman (ex-officio, Dean of Emory College), Harold Gouzoules, Peter Hoeyng, Vialla Hartfield-Mendez, Donna Maney, Michael Sullivan, Eric Weeks, Holly York (ex-officio, representing University Senate)

Absent: Stefan Lutz, Patricia Whitten.

Also present: Joanne Brzinski, Senior Associate Dean of Emory College, Nancy Bliwise, Chair, Educational Policy Committee, Darrell Stokes, Chair, Admission and Scholarships Committee.

Administrative support: Susan Lee

Eric Weeks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2011 were approved.

2. Educational Policy Committee. Sally Gouzoules has emailed a report to Eric, which he will forward to GovCom, but there was nothing in the report that needed to be discussed in person.

3. Update on courses taught by graduate students: student evaluations. Dean Brzinski presented data showing the numbers of course sections in each College department broken down by level and instructor type for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. Dean Forman pointed out that while graduate students teach a large number of sections, the likelihood is that an individual undergraduate would not see more than one graduate student instructor in a given semester. He further observed that the number of sections taught by graduate students can be linked to faculty preference that overall class sizes be as small as possible.

Additional data on student performance and course/instructor mean evaluation scores for Fall 2010 indicate that the total mean for sections taught by graduate students was only slightly lower than that for sections taught by faculty/other categories.

4. Curriculum Committee. Nancy Bliwise reported that the ideas compiled with regard to the credit vs. contact hours question have been put forward and the next step would be to assemble an implementation committee on the University level. She expressed the desire of the Curriculum Committee to participate in this phase.

The Curriculum Committee has recently experienced increasing numbers of applications to establish new minors. Since there is at present no standard for determining whether or not a minor is justified, committee members have the impression of working in a vacuum. Applications are often returned to departments for further clarification. There is an urgent need for a model framework and a test to indicate the probable sustainability of a proposed minor. Dean Forman suggested that it would also be wise to build in a statement of Student Learning Outcomes in preparation for SACS re-accreditation.

Nancy concluded with two other items: (1) plans for Maymeser, headed by Philip Wainwright, are in progress and (2) the Educational Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing the Student Learning Outcomes submitted by the various departments. EPC and CC have requested input as to how they might best coordinate their work.

5. Admissions and Scholarships. Dean Forman reported that a Provost's committee is setting new guidelines and reexamining the need-blind mandate to determine if Emory's policy has shown an over-commitment in this area. For example, it might make sense if the need-blind policy were not applied in the case of students admitted from the wait list or as transfers from other institutions. Also, student academic interest might be considered in wait list admissions as a way of relieving stress on overpopulated majors

and supporting those that are underpopulated. This year, all academically-qualified courtesy scholarship students were admitted.

Admissions regularly call for more faculty input and faculty regularly express the desire to provide it but thus far, there has been little success in identifying appropriate and effective means of faculty participation. At present, admissions officers are sometimes left to set institutional policy.

In the matter of scholarships, Dean Forman called for creativity in the handling of merit awards. The Woodruff Scholarships, established by President Laney in the 1980's, were especially generous in order to attract top students at a time when Emory had a more modest national presence. Today's Emory might be better served if these awards were spread among more students.

Since there is a clear need to repair the disconnect between faculty and the Office of Admission, there was consensus that the Admission and Scholarships Committee should continue to function. Darrell Stokes called for a change in the By-Laws for Admissions and Scholarships, with a need to focus the efforts of the committee. At present, Admissions are separated between the College and the Provost's office, which makes it difficult to find a common pathway.

Eric asked Darrell and Joanne to rewrite the By-Laws once a set of guidelines has been established for the committee.

6. Financial Advisory Committee. Since this committee was formed in response to a particular financial climate that has since evolved, there has been a question of whether or not it should continue and if so, how its charge should be adjusted to better reflect present conditions. Michael Sullivan expressed the concern that although this committee reports to GovCom, much of its discussion is deemed confidential. Thus GovCom is seen to be responsible for a committee while being kept in the dark about its work. Eric replied that he sits on the committee as the GovCom representative. Dean Forman reported that the committee has now shifted to longer-range thinking, with instruments such as Academic Analytics.

7. Election of Chair. Gray Crouse was unanimously elected Chair of GovCom for next year. The committee applauded and thanked outgoing Chair Eric Weeks for his excellent work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly York