## Minutes

College Senate

February 18, 2014 12:15 p.m.
Burke Library 103

**Meeting Start Time:** 12:18 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mindy Hovell, Samantha Church, Eric Vicente-Flores, Patrick Lameka, Billy Kavula, Meg Smith, Andrew Tumminia, Stephanie Girard, Tim Jenkins, Todd Warren, Colette Windish, Lindsey Bosko-Dunbar, Steve Almquist, Ricardo Pita

**Members Absent:** Emily Fife

**Guests:** George Sims

**Primary Business:**

* Update from George Sims about the Proposal for New Programs
	+ It’s on the back burner for now pending a conclusion of understanding what the college’s priorities are
	+ If program development ends up as one of the college’s priorities, we’ll go back to the document to use as a guide
* Conversation about the status of Councils (Student Success, Institutional Identity, Community and Wellbeing, and Budget Advisory). Below are the main points brought up throughout the discussion:
	+ As this is a small college, there is some overlap across councils. Questions arise as to what the various Councils are supposed to be charged with.
	+ Currently the system functions top-down—the Councils do not have anything to do unless someone (from the Administration or the Senate) requests that something be discussed. Originally, the shared governance model was constructed in such a way that we could take things from the bottom-up as well.
	+ Proposal: Eliminate the councils. Reconstitute the Senate so that everyone is elected instead of having most members come from the Councils.
	+ Instead of Councils, working groups could be formed as needed. The Senate could suggest that people with expertise or experience in a certain area work on issues that bubble up. There could be more initiative from the Senate in proposing projects; who should work on the projects; and who from the Senate should sit in on the working groups. Once the project is finished, the working group dissolves (except for Budget, as members went through training and Budget predates College Senate).
	+ Before the College Senate existed, ad hoc groups were popping up everywhere and there was a lot of overlap with no reporting. The idea behind forming Councils in the first place was to have a clearinghouse of some kind, to ensure more communication across the College, and to eliminate redundancy.
	+ Under the current system (Councils), communication remains a problem.
	+ What is the relationship of the Senate to other groups (i.e., Retention)? Under the model of shared governance, the Senate should remain in control of working groups across campus. That is, no ad hoc group can exist outside of the Senate, and the groups must report to the Senate.
	+ Do the Councils serve a valuable purpose?
	+ It could be that shared governance has not yet been given a full opportunity to work. We are creating a culture, and it’s not going to happen overnight. It is important to identify our purpose.
	+ Currently, what is the role of the Senate? Is its function more of an advisory council than a board?
	+ If working groups were formed to replace the current model of Councils, speed would be an issue. It would be difficult to get people on the working group together in a timely manner due to everyone’s various commitments.
	+ We could assess the value of each council and keep them if valuable. However, if we realize that they only create a new level of bureaucracy, we could get rid of them.
	+ Suggestions to improve functionality and communication across councils (Dr. Sims):
		- The Senate and Councils should adopt and stand by meeting times that are set at the beginning of each semester. The times should be posted campus-wide.
		- The Agenda of each meeting should include a place for appropriate campus leaders to come to inform of any current issues.
		- Councils and Senate should broaden ability to initiate communication on any issue that falls within their scope.
		- Reaffirm the feature of the Senate and the Councils to hold open meetings.
	+ The Senate should ask for Council reports at each Senate meeting.
	+ This issue will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Business for next meeting:**

* Continue discussion of the role and functionality of Councils

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 18th, 12:15 p.m., Bedsole Conference Room

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:15 p.m.