

## MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Present: Duffy, Goldstein, Kowalsky, Martin, Perez, Potacco, Seal

Absent: Rosar

Guest: Martinez

1. Convener Potacco called the first meeting of the Governance Council for 2009-2010 to order at 3:35 PM.
2. Potacco declined to run for reelection as Chair of the Governance Council. Martin was nominated and elected unanimously.
3. Meeting dates were established for the Fall 2009 semester. All will be on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Paterson Room in the Library.

October 21<sup>st</sup>

November 18<sup>th</sup>

December 9<sup>th</sup>

4. Martinez, Vice-Chair of the Senate, described the basic reports that the Executive Committee would like the Council to submit for posting on the Faculty Senate webpage. She also reviewed, in detail, the Charges given to the Governance Council by the Executive Committee for the 2009-2010 year.
5. The group agreed that it was time to again “review the documents” – Constitution, By-Laws, Policies – that bear upon faculty governance.
6. The role of the Governance Council in “educating the Senate” was discussed, with special attention to reminding senators to include Senate reports in their departmental meeting agendas
7. The Council recommended that the Executive Committee and the Vice-Chair be more proactive in notifying members of the Senate and of councils when their term limits are approaching. All agreed that this should be a Senate Office routine and did not require a By-Laws amendment. Similarly, when individuals are appointed to councils, etc. they should receive a timely, formal notice from the Senate Office.
8. On the charge regarding splitting the Graduate Council, the Governance Council will contact or meet with the Graduate Council and request that the Council prepare its rationale for dividing the Council.

Kaplan, last year's Graduate Council Chair (or the new Chair, if not she) will be asked to provide the Governance Council with a detailed rationale and justification for this action, and to delineate specifically how the various responsibilities and tasks currently handled by the single council would be divided between two new councils. The question came up: why should this be done to the Graduate Council and not the Undergraduate Council? This issue will not be addressed until after the Graduate Council matter is resolved.

9. Martin, a member of the former Ad Hoc Committee that had discussed a possible Technology Council several years ago, suggested that the issue be reviewed one last time. She would prefer that a recommendation – positive or negative – come forward, rather than simply allow the work of many people over many months sink into oblivion as totally wasted effort.

10. The Council decided to take a look at the inactive Athletics Council. It has not been constituted for several years, yet it is still in the By-Laws.

11. How liaisons are selected for Board of Trustees committees will be discussed, and possible additions to the By-Laws will be considered.

12. The request by the Research Council to change the name to Research and Scholarship Council will be discussed. As with the Graduate Council's request, the Governance Council will ask the Research Council to prepare a detailed justification for the action.

13. The Governance Council adjourned at 4:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted: BD