

FEC Report on the 12 December 2019 Committee of Committees Meeting

FEC members Kendrah Murphy (Chair), Katie Hauser (scribe), Juan Navea (scribe), Casey Schofield (scribe) were present, along with representatives from ATC, PC, IPPC, CAFR, FDC, CEPP, CC, AC, and PHFC.

- PC reports that the committee is very collegial and the members have been working well together. They have had limited discussions with the DoF, but interactions have been pleasant.
4. Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights report
 - CAFR is working with ATC and TRB to clarify its role.
 - CAFR members are working very well together, and do not report any difficulties in their interactions with administrators.
 5. Institutional Policies and Planning Committee report
 - Materials have been provided further in advance of meetings than in the past.
 - As a committee, IPPC does not always function well. There is a general feeling of lack of freedom to speak candidly and provide feedback during IPPC meetings. This leads to self-censorship, particularly for those who are not tenured faculty.
 - The committee may want to consider anonymous voting.
 - There is still a feeling that IPPC meetings are informational only, and policy decisions are made before they are presented to the committee. The faculty-at-large is sometimes told that IPPC was consulted, when in fact members were only informed of decisions. Some IPPC subcommittees have more robust discussions, and feel more inclusive than others.
 - The large composition makes it unwieldy. May want to consider holding separate meetings of faculty/staff who sit on IPPC in addition to the IPPC meetings.
 - There are requests for further discussion about the concerns raised about health care and the new athletic facility – faculty would appreciate a report/discussion at the next faculty meeting.
 6. Committee on Educational Policies and Planning report
 - CEPP will continue work on the student ratings form, although, discussions have been delayed to discuss the academic calendar and religious holidays. CEPP is working to be more inclusive with regard to religious holidays and thinking about how to comply with state law on religious holiday observance without disrupting education. CEPP has also been considering ways to incorporate a week-long Thanksgiving break into the Fall calendar (e.g. longer class sessions).

7. Curriculum Committee report

- CC is expecting an increased workload during the spring semester related to proposals for new courses fulfilling the new general education requirements. Also on the spring agenda are the review of new Scribner Seminars and the Black Studies minor.
- The fall was calm as many faculty delayed submitting general education courses to CC, but CC has been busy with the normal review of new course proposals and revisions to majors and minors.
- CC is currently receiving Bridge Experience proposals. We will need approximately 80 courses. BE courses may fulfill multiple general education and major/minor requirements.
- A subgroup of CC will be

serving on FDC. FEC is having conversations with FDC regarding a possible change to its membership restrictions.

- FEC has had productive conversations with the Chairs of CEPP, ATC, PC, and FDC during the fall semester.
- FEC worked with CEPP, ATC, and PC to facilitate Committee of the Whole discussions during two faculty meetings – one focused on qSET, the other on the ATC/PC motion to couple promotion with tenure.
- A suggestion was made to consider reinstating Board of Trustees meeting observers.
- FEC reports an excellent working relationship with the Dean of the Faculty, and also appreciates the opportunity to meet regularly with the President and the Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity.

11. Discussion of the governance service mandate

- FEC briefly outlined challenges faced with the current governance mandate. FEC will consider possible changes to the governance mandate during the spring semester. However, a formal reevaluation of the mandate is set to take place during the 2023-2024 academic year – the faculty may want to wait until that time to implement any changes. One possibility includes removing certain committees from the governance mandate. Since Athletic Council and Periclean Honors Forum Council are likely to be considered, FEC invited representatives from those committees to this meeting to give them time to think about how that might affect their committees. The main concern is how to populate those committees if they are not elected. Frequent rotation of faculty members is important for AC. Physical activity courses must be evaluated by faculty. Conversations with AC and PHFC will continue, since time ran out. All of the representatives were asked to consider the challenges and possible changes to the mandate outlined by FEC. FEC plans to initiate further discussion with the community during the spring semester.