

**Governance Committee of the Faculty Senate**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2014-2015**

The 2014/15 Governance Committee (GC) included following members: Linda Moore, Tim Gollaher, Vanessa Miller, Michael Skinner, Hanan Hammad, Stephen Mann, Jeffery Geider, Suzy Lockwood (Chair) and Ted Legatski (FSEC liaison). The GC responded to the following standing charges in addition to committee specific charges established at the start of the academic year.

**The standing charges & related activities included:**

- Revise and edit the Faculty Senate and Faculty-Staff Handbooks to ensure congruence with new programs, policies, and initiatives.
- Work jointly with the Executive Committee to nominate candidates for senate offices.
  - After multiple discussions between GC and FSEC, the GC makes the following recommendations to improve the vetting/nominating process of potential candidates for FSEC offices each year:
    1. In **January**, Chair of Governance Committee (GC) will send an email to all Senators requesting nominations or self-nominations for open FSEC positions for next academic year.
    2. At **February** Senate meeting, Chair of GC will discuss open FSEC positions and promote verbally email request sent in January for nominations/self-nominations
    3. Nominations/Self nominations will be sent to Chair of Governance Committee **prior to Spring Break**.
    4. During **March**, The FSEC and Governance Committee will meet to:
      - a. Review the self-nominations received
      - b. Discuss recruitment of additional nominees.
    5. All nominees will be contacted by the **end of March** to confirm willingness to have name on ballot.
    6. Ballot will be presented during the **next to last meeting** of the Academic Year.
    7. Voting will occur during the last meeting of the Academic Year.
- Monitor function of Faculty Senate Committees and recommend changes that will improve effectiveness of Faculty Senate in University governance.

Monitor the structure and function of the Faculty Senate (FS) and Senate committees, including updates of FS documents and policies as needed.

- The FGC finalized work that had begun during the 2012/2013 AY related to this charge; see summary statements at end of this report.
- Recommend changes that will improve the effectiveness of the FS and Senate committees in University governance.
  - No action was needed specific to this charge during the 2014/15 AY.
- Revise and edit the Faculty Senate and Faculty-Staff Handbooks to ensure congruent with new programs, policies, and initiatives.
  - Minor edits in numbering were needed to Faculty Senate Handbook which were made internally and submitted. No substantive changes were required.

**The FSEC issued to other specific charges to the GC at the beginning of the AY:**

- 1. Work jointly with the Committee on Committees to suggest ways to enhance the communication and interface between University Committees and the FS.*
- 2. Develop specific strategies for enhancing the role of the faculty and the FS in the shared governance of the University.*

The GC discussed these and shared with both the CoC and FSEC the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that all FS committees have access in some format (whether it is Sharepoint site or some other method) to the reports (EOY or mid-year) of the various University committees
2. That the COC provide a summary document which highlights specific issues of particular concern to FS sub-committees; this would allow FS committees to focus on topics/issues that might overlap and encourage Chairs of FS sub-committees to contact those University sub-committee Chairs for discussion

Recommended FGC focus areas in 2015-2016 include but should not be limited to:

- Clarification, transparency and formalization of nomination process for FSEC ballot
- Increased transparency and articulation of outcomes related to Faculty Senate work.
- Continue to explore opportunities for increasing faculty participation in FS activities.

Respectively submitted,  
Suzy Lockwood  
Chair, FGC 2014-2015