

Report of the Governance Committee of the Faculty Senate

As to the charge of finding out if the Koehler Center if it was still serving the purpose for which it was created.

We discussed the issue and had a meeting with the center's Director, Asst Provost of Education Technology and Faculty Development Romana (Romy) Hughes. She was most helpful in giving us a history lesson in the development of the Center and how it has morphed over time as it became evident that the new computer technologies used by the university would require training in order to use it properly. She was also informative by sharing their data with us on the use of the center by faculty.

We found that while it is still doing the job it was created for and meeting the faculties expectations in the aspect of creating dialogue about teaching, it has also been taxed with the ever growing use of technology and training both new and experienced professors to use it. We felt that it would be used more widely if it had a permanent home that had all of its resources and offices in one place. At present it is split between three floors in two buildings, neither of which have adequate direction markers for the Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence. We felt that the lack of a known physical identity keeps a number of users and potential users from approaching the center for help.

As to the charge of looking into absenteeism in both committees and the senate meeting, we found that there is no written policy. There is no one required to take roll at committee meetings, and no one to report the absentees too. There are also no repercussions at this time for missing committee meetings. There is a feeling in the governance committee that we have too many senators and a reevaluation of senator to constituents is necessary. They are assigned to committees that they may or may not care to work on, which means they are not invested in the committee and therefore are less likely to attend.

We felt that there needs to be a change in policy that senators can volunteer for committees, turn in a list of committees they are willing to serve on, or they can go into a central pool which can be used by the executive committee to fulfill any requirements for special committees during the year.

The charge of looking into past motions of the senate and their outcome will be an ongoing charge for some time to come, of the ones we looked at most had been carried through the proper channels and/or present committees were working on similar measures.

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Michael Skinner, Committee Chair