Governance, Communications and Recruitment (GoCore)
Committee Meeting of Faculty Senate

March 24, 2020
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Chris Ashwell, Dave Aspnes, Maria Collins, Natalie Cooke (Co-Chair), Chad Jordan, Barbara Kirby (Co-Chair), and Troy Pinkins

Absent: David Fitzpatrick and Andrey Kuznetsov

Discussion: Assigning of volunteers to university standing committees

Joni Lancaster led the committee through the process of assigning volunteers to four of the university standing committees, based on reports from the recent survey about university standing committees. Joni will send the form to Barbara and Natalie to approve later this week.

Discussion: Update on student teams & plan for wrapping up committee work

Troy provided a report on the student teams, including:
- The BUS 495 interim presentation was on March 2nd at 10:45am. Troy, Natalie, and Maria attended.
    - The BUS 495 team provided preliminary themes from the 3 focus groups and 1 interview. The COM 529 group will provide a more in-depth report on these themes as their final presentation.
    - The BUS 495 team also completed benchmarking with other Faculty Senate websites from various universities and provided an ideal website example from the University of Maryland. They felt that the FAQs from the University of Maryland website mirrored many of the concerns expressed during the focus groups & interview.
    - After meeting with University Communications, the BUS 495 team learned about the resources that office can offer. They recommended a timeline for working with University Communications but will also explore other avenues for marketing needs.
    - By the end of the semester, the BUS 495 team will work with their course instructor to create a more detailed report that can be shared with Hans.
- The COM 529 team will focus on the results from the 3 focus groups and 1 interview and will provide findings to the committee in the form of a final report.
- The Undergraduate Research Symposium will be occurring virtually, so there will be an opportunity for the BUS 495 students to present on their findings, if it fits within their course timeline.

The committee also discussed the following:

- There is the potential that we can work with student groups in the future on clearly defined objectives related to the core mission of the committee. This will require meeting with the course instructor well before proposals are due.
- COVID-19 has created an opportunity for the Faculty Senate to explore new technologies, such as the recent streaming of the General Faculty Meeting, which increased accessibility across campus.
- As this committee moves forward, they may consider the role of faculty governance during times of crisis, such as COVID-19.
- As we move forward with making recommendations for what the committee might pursue next year, it will be important to think about funding opportunities and appropriate timelines, given that a good website takes a year to develop.
- We have had difficulty with recruiting senators this year, and it might be helpful to do additional surveys or focus groups with faculty who were asked to serve but decided against running. It may be helpful to have hard data on why faculty are not running for Faculty Senate.
- It might be helpful to create a timeline for running for Faculty Senate and post this one the Faculty Senate website.
- Given that the student reports seem to validate what the committee has already discussed throughout this academic year, we will also prepare a document that highlights key recommendations from the committee. This document will be the focus of our committee meeting on April 7th.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2020 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM, Zoom