Ad Hoc Committee on A&S Shared Governance
Meeting Notes
January 13, 2017
Present: Gupton, McCulley, Baughan, Abreu, Goddu

Next steps for Shared Governance Models

Committee members shared feedback and thoughts from our December 8 presentation to the A&S Faculty. John Gupton relayed some recommendations from Michelle Hamm. Michelle suggested that we consider moving forward with the idea of A&S Faculty electing an Executive Committee, taking effect for 2017-2018. Our ad hoc committee would provide by-laws and a description of duties for the Executive Committee, but the Executive committee (elected by all faculty) would develop by-laws and a structure for A&S faculty. The Executive Committee would also elect a Chair of the Faculty and call faculty meetings. This is an incremental approach in that we would “set the stage” for shared governance, but it would not be done all at once. In addition, we would recommend to the Committee on Committees that the Nominating Committee reform how committee members are selected for A&S committees.

We spent most of our meeting time debating the pros and cons of this proposed idea. After much worthwhile discussion, we suggest the following three models for A&S faculty consideration.

Model 1 – Recommend that A&S Faculty elect an Executive Committee, including a Chair of the Faculty. The ad hoc committee would recommend bylaws, a description, and the constitution of the Executive Committee as a first step. In the first year (2017-2018), the main duties of the Committee would be to call faculty meetings and create by-laws and a structure of shared governance for the School of Arts and Sciences. There would be dotted lines to the Dean and to current A&S committees that now report directly to the Dean. We would also recommend to the Committee on Committees that the Nominating Committee reform how committee members are selected for A&S committees. This model represents an incremental approach to developing shared governance.
Model 2 – Model 2 follows the recommendation of Model 1, but in this model, the Executive Committee would assume immediate governing as well as the creation of governance. A&S Committees would report directly to the Executive Committee and official communication would go through the Executive Committee, which in turn, would communicate with the Dean.

Model 3 – The ad hoc committee recommends the election of an A&S Task Force that would create and develop an executive committee, bylaws, nomination process, committees, procedures for interfacing with the Faculty Senate and the Dean, hire a consultant for bylaws creation, etc. This process would ensure that a structure is in place before any changes are made. Creation of a structure might take 1-2 years.

We agreed to keep thinking about the three possible models in the next few weeks. If we move forward with presenting the models, we probably need to present at the February 23 faculty meeting. Should we contact Patrice for a slot on the agenda?

We also need to complete our interviews with current A&S committee chairs and Academic Council.

Lucretia will set up interviews with committee chairs on Jan. 20, 27, and Feb. 3. Another committee member needs to take the lead with presenting to Academic Council.

Lucretia will send out a call for online comments again on the A&S listserv.