

CAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

22 August 2019

3:30 pm HCC 111

In attendance: Jackie Gallagher (secretary), Helen Housley, Larry Lehman, Miriam Liss, Laura Mentore (Vice President), Sarah Morealli, Angela Pitts (President), Gregg Stull. Visiting: Suzanne Sumner and Smita Jain-Oxford from UFOC.

Meeting called to order 3.30pm

1. **Reports:** None

2. **Old Business:** Officers. We had previously decided upon the roles of President, Vice-President, and Secretary. These are the titles in the handbook – all agree that handbook language needs updating. Much more suitable would be Chair and Vice-Chair.
Recommendation made to have UFOC suggest new language in the handbook.

3. **New Business**

a. **General education:** proposals and timelines

i. Discussion. It will be difficult to work to these timelines, but questions were resolved at the meeting specifically about gen ed.

b. **General Education:** learning outcomes

i. As above.

c. **Motion** from Deb O'Dell

i. After discussion focusing on current wording compared to that of the motion, the motion was voted down unanimously. There will be variety by division.

d. **Streamlining faculty governance:** guests invited to discuss this.

i. UFOC embarked on a long process of surveying every committee; report presented to UFC in May 2019. See several issues:

1. There is a large number of committees.

2. Despite this, faculty who would like to be on a committee are unable to serve, perhaps because of restrictions placed on membership (e.g. rank, tenure status, recently committee membership). Other faculty are asked to serve but would prefer not to, feel that they cannot say no. Faculty in demographic minorities are frequently asked to serve on search committees – this load needs to be spread out.

3. There is a perception that P&T values elected committee work more than appointed committee work. Maybe P&T could clarify how they view types of service in the handbook.

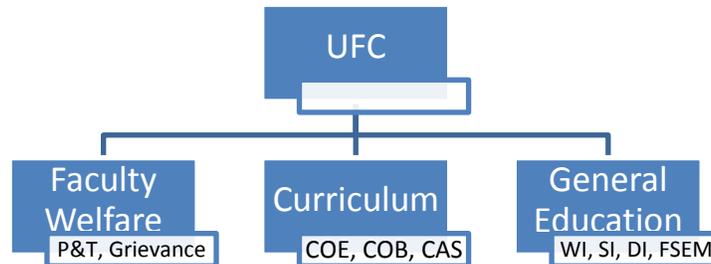
4. Many chairs say that they cannot find a time to meet with committees in person.

5. Not all committee membership goes through UFOC – UFOC has emphasized to the administration that there needs to be a centralized body to decide who serves where – UFOC seems most logical body.

6. We do not have a single spreadsheet showing committees and faculty members. A database of committees and membership has apparently

existed in the past. Recently, it was 75% completed through a student class assignment.

- ii. Discussion about virtual meetings: we need to know “best practices” for such meetings. Do they have to be open to the public/the faculty? What kind of software is accessible to all? **Jackie will look into this.**
- iii. Members of COB and COE feel overburdened because of the expectation that they should be represented on committees; the handbook says so. Could they provide input into whether they need to be on a specific committee in a given year – with reassessment each year? Currently, this would break handbook rules.
 - 1. Is this also an issue of trust? Our aim should be to further our goals as an institution; someone who is NOT from your department/division should be your representative...
- iv. Discussion about how to re-create faculty governance at UMW – to move away from the huge number of committees and the feeling among some faculty that they must serve on multiple committees
 - 1. Angie recalls a conversation a few years ago with a leader of Faculty Senate of Virginia. His school had a body as follows – where multiple sub-committees fed up to a few major committees, under a body like UFC. Who from sub-committees would attend meetings at the ‘upper’ committees? Can we imagine something streamlined like this?



- 2. If we were able to concentration faculty power, we would staff committees more effectively, and may be able to plan ahead and respond to events more quickly. We could govern ourselves and invite administrators to participate.
- 3. Most common example is under General Education – after new curriculum has been dealt with, can FSEM, WI, SI, DI and perhaps part of Distance & Blended Learning fall under Gen Ed? The other part might fall under Curriculum. Where could BLS go?
- v. Discussion about procedure. Can CAS FC make recommendations to UFOC?
- vi. Discussion about CAS FC role in approving curriculum. CAS CC receives and decides on curriculum matters, which then come to CAS FC before moving on to UCC. Some think CAS FC step is unnecessary; what do we check for? Are we being distrustful? Isn't CAS CC representative of CAS?
- vii. CAS FC details are [here](#).

- viii. Discussion about CAS FC duties (below); does it make sense to keep all these?
1. How do we communicate with our constituents?
 2. Are some of these duties duplicative?
 3. What if this year we could operate as a think-tank, to brainstorm our charge and other ways to streamline government?

F.3.2 Business of the CAS Faculty Council The CAS Faculty Council has the following responsibilities:

- .1 To facilitate communication between the UFC and CAS departments and faculty.
- .2 To review changes to academic offerings considered by the CAS Curriculum Committee and address any concerns through the UFC;
- .3 To review changes to the requirements for all degrees, majors and minors considered by the CAS Curriculum Committee and address any concerns through the UFC;
- .4 To approve the creation of or changes to general admissions policies for the College prior to their consideration by the UFC;
- .5 To approve the creation of or changes to academic regulations for CAS students in matters of attendance, examinations, grading, scholastic standing, honors, and awards prior to their consideration by the UFC;
- .6 To review proposed changes to the annual faculty evaluation system and address any concerns through the UFC;
- .7 To recommend policies concerning College faculty welfare to the UFC;
- .8 To review proposed changes to policies and procedures for tenure and promotion and address any concerns through the UFC.

e. **Agenda items for the year:** discussion, as above.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday September 18 in HCC 111.
The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm.