

**Governance Steering Council**  
**Meeting Notes 8/15/14**

Present: Sydney Comitz, Dan Gerlowski, Troy Pritt, William Schnirel, Kristen Tull. Absent: Catherine Johnson

1. Meeting was called to order at approximately 12:39 to allow for document preparation.
  - a. The Faculty were assigned a note taking role at today's meeting. At our following meeting the students will be taking notes.
2. There was no formal written agenda but a plan was approved allowing for: updates by each constituent senate, framing discussion for university committee membership, and planning for meeting with President Schmoke on Monday.
3. University Faculty Senate report.
  - a. A university wide student success committee would be formed soon to carry on in the tradition of the student success committee of Spring 2014. It was unclear how the committee would be structured and where it would be "housed" but will involve the President's Office, The Provost, and The University Faculty Senate.
  - b. UFS has been approached lately with a number of topics of interest to the general university community and the Provost is requesting committees. The initial response has been to have events targeting more broad groups than just the University Faculty Senate. These topics would include: convocation planning, graduation committee, news of a new email system.
  - c. UFS presented a discussion on the "three-peat" course policy. All present agreed that it was a good limit on the number of times a student could take a class and all agreed that a "W" should count as an attempt to take a course within the purview of the policy.
  - d. Described its meeting pattern for the year and invited all GSC members to all meetings.
4. Staff Senate.
  - a. The staff senate expressed its main goals for the year. The emphasis on student success and on workplace environment are dominant.
  - b. This led to a productive and collegial discussion regarding interpretations of the meaning of student success across the campus. A discussion was held and the primary conclusion of that discussion was that while each group may see different things as important in helping our students be successful; once we recognize that we are attacking a broad problem from different angles we see the congruence in our approach.
5. Student Senate
  - a. The student government platform items were distributed. This represented the majority of the student senate report. One GSC member commented that the items, in and of themselves, were sort of vague. A second GSC member encouraged the creation of "sub-points" associated with the broader platform item. The sub-points would be useful not only in adding specificity to the

platform items but also in developing measurable benchmarks and signs of progress to them. The SGA agreed to work on that aspect, the GSC members agreed to continue to be helpful in framing the options.

- b. As the SGA leaders attended a meeting the EMSA VP a GSC member attended along with the student representatives. This is an attempt to facilitate information flow and also as a guide to students. Hopefully the student leaders will continue to ask for a GSC member to attend those meetings.
  - c. The SGA added a “chief of staff” to its leadership team. The primary purpose of the SGA chief of staff position is to allow the SGA President and Vice-President to be heavily involved in reaching out across our campus and with other university campuses while the operational aspects of the SGA can be minded too, particularly the need to ensure attendance and participation by students in governance efforts.
  - d. Troy Pritt introduced as new VP.
6. In terms of expectations for the upcoming meeting with President Schmoke the GSC decided to use the meeting for two purposes. First to provide an introduction. Second to begin sharing our goals and visions – reflective of our constituent groups – with the president.
- a. Our primary goal for the year is to consider and act so as to Enhance Mission Success. Within that broader goal we hope to work to
    - i. Increase our institution’s capability to deliver student facing, operational resources and services to students, enhancing their ability to succeed.
    - ii. Use data driven decision making to serve the students we admit, enhancing their ability to succeed.
    - iii. Develop the student’s experience base enhancing their ability to succeed.