

2011-12 UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Chris Kyselka, Chair

Members: Charles Colbourn, David Forsyth, Karen Gerdes, Scott Muir, John Mitchell, Eduardo Pagan, Junshan Zhang

SUMMARY

The tasks for the committee this year included:

- 1) Distribute the Senate Preference Survey to identify participation in various senate committees
- 2) Create and distribute the Fall Preference Survey to nominate assembly officers and other candidates for the spring assembly ballot
- 3) Conduct Academic Assembly elections for president-elect and elected faculty and academic professional committees on all four campuses; and
- 4) Distribute and review results from the University Committee Survey to nominate assembly members for the Provost boards, councils and committees

The Committee met in-person during the fall semester, but communicated via email or phone thereafter.

Three preference surveys issued throughout the year: (1) University Senate Preference Survey, to solicit nominations for Senate Standing Committees; (2) Academic Assembly Preference Survey, to solicit nominations for campus President-elect, Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Governance Grievance, Academic Professional Grievance Committee and Committee on Academic Professional Status; and (3) University Committee Preference Survey, to solicit assembly member preferences for Committees, Boards, and Advisory Groups.

Committee co-chair, committee members from each campus, and campus presidents worked together to identify candidates and coordinate campus elections in consultation with the University Senate Secretary. Assistance with senate elections included University Senate Secretary Judy Grace, Linda Glover (Educational Outreach and Student Services), Carol Peplow (Provost's Office) and Charles Barbee, (University Senate office).

The Polytechnic, West and Downtown Academic Assembly elections were complete as of March 21, 2012. As of the date of this annual report, the election for the West Campus President-Elect is in progress.

COMMITTEE ISSUES

- Regarding Senate elections, uncontested elections continued to prevail despite a very early start to the elections process. No campus was able to field a full slate of nominees for each available office. In the area of faculty/academic professional committees, several contested elections were held. However, a single candidate stood for election for president-elect on each campus. This challenge of securing candidates and holding contested elections for these most important faculty governance opportunities needs to be addressed.
- The university committee preference survey that requests assembly member preferences for committee and board appointment has gone out every year. The Committee makes recommendations to the Provost as vacancies on these committees are revealed. As faculty and academic professional availability can change due to travel, sabbaticals, or other responsibilities -- appointments to committees and boards remain critical to faculty governance. However, only a handful of committee vacancies occurred this past year. Perhaps this survey should be administered every other year. This issue will be taken up in 2012-13.

The Committee on Committees would like to thank the following individuals who contributed significantly to our efforts throughout the year: Charles Barbee, Darby Shaw, Linda Glover, Cameron Scholtz and Carol Peplow.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kyselka

April 19, 2012