

To: Rojann Alpers, Chair, University Academic Council

From: Victoria K. Trotta, on behalf of the 2009-2010 Committee on Committees

Date: April 12, 2010

Re: 2010 Annual Report of the Academic Senate Committee on Committees

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The goals set for the Senate Committee on Committees this year were: to populate senate standing committees with representatives from all ASU campus locations; to issue a unified preference survey (spring); to conduct elections on all four ASU campuses; to advise the Provost's Office on nominations for university-wide boards, committees, etc; to plan for University Senate standing committee elections for fall 2010 by issuing a mini-preference survey; to forward nominations for the office of University Senate Secretary to the University Academic Council for appointment .

The Committee met face to face during the fall semester, but communicated via email after that.

Preference Surveys – there were three preference surveys issued throughout the year. University Senate Preference Survey, to solicit nominations for Senate Standing Committees; 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; Spring Academic Assembly Preference Survey, to solicit assembly member preferences for the range of Committees, Boards, and Advisory Groups.

The provisions of the new Academic Constitution and Bylaws revised elections procedures. The Chair of the Committee on Committees coordinated with the University Senate Secretary to prepare election notices and ballots. The management of the campus elections was handled by the University Senate Secretary Judy Grace with the help of Tanner Woodford (Web Developer, Provost Web and Publication Design Group), Beverly Buddee and Carol Peplow, Provost's Office, Faith St. Clair, University Senate webmaster, and Sara Lipich, Administrative Assistant, Ross-Blakley Law Library.

As of the date of this annual report, the election for the Downtown Academic Assembly has concluded; the Polytechnic and West Academic Assembly election process has just begun; the Tempe academic assembly election is in final preparation. The University Senate Secretary will coordinate the Tellers activity, in accordance with the revised Bylaws pertaining to this part of the elections function.

The preference survey and mini-preference survey continue to be conducted using Survey Monkey. The University Senate maintains this low cost subscription and should continue to do so. The campus elections are managed using the same software that supports ASU student elections. This software is secure and ballot confidentiality is maintained.

Issues

1. Only one of the ASU campuses was able to field a full slate of nominees. Two of the four campuses only had one president-elect candidate, and one campus had no president elect candidate. This is an alarming development and the inability to field a contested election for these most important faculty governance opportunities and needs to be addressed.
2. There is still insufficient administrative support for this committee. There should be a co-chair appointed so that the work load can be shared and so there is a smooth transition of authority from chair to chair. The processes of the committee are not difficult, but they are detailed and the academic assembly will not be served if a new chair is unfamiliar with the tasks and the routines involved in conducting the work of the committee. This year the Secretary took over the conducting of the elections, which was helpful in this regard.
3. The general preference survey that asks for assembly member preferences for committee and board appointment usually goes out every year. The Committee makes recommendations to the Provost as vacancies on these committees are revealed. The Committee discussed, and a majority recommended that this survey only go out every other year. This was not a unanimous decision. On the one hand, annual surveys can be annoying and it can be a disincentive to completing the survey if no nominations or appointments are forthcoming. On the other hand, faculty and academic professional availability can change due to travel, sabbaticals, or other responsibilities and appointments to committees and boards are part of faculty governance. In any event, less than 300 members of the academic assembly return this preference survey, a poor result. Perhaps it is time to reengineer this routine.

The Committee on Committee thanks the University Academic Council for the opportunity to serve the University in this capacity. The Committee would like to thank the following individuals, who each contributed in a significant way to the work of the Committee during the year:

Ms. Darby Shaw
Ms. Beverly Buddee
Ms. Carol Peplow
Ms. Jill Andrews
Mr. Zachary Lisi
Mr. Tanner Woodford
Ms. Faith St. Clair
Ms. Judy Grace
Ms. Sara Lipich

Respectfully submitted,
2009-2010 Committee on Committees

Barbara Acker
Rojann Alpers
Joseph Comfort
Charles Kazilek
Robert Kleinsasser
Nora Gustavsson
Holly Huffman
Victor Pambuccian
Todd Sandrin
Judy Grace, Ex officio
Beverly Buddee for Exec VP and Provost
Jan Stanley for University President

Victoria K. Trotta, Chair