

Monday March 04, 2013

ASU Task Force on the possible re-organization of the UAC

Dear Dr. Mark Lussier:

Hope this letter finds you well. As you know, the task force on the possible re-organization of the UAC has been meeting regularly, reviewed many options and evaluated the arguments for such a change. On behalf of the members please accept our thoughts and recommendations.

Some Task Force thoughts:

-Senate is a body that represents all units, schools and colleges at ASU; the UAC represents Campuses at large and all academic assembly members. This set up creates a welcome 'checks and balances' for representation and covers necessary interactions with various groups in administration, from Deans, to the Provost, President and ABOR.

-Task Force members feel that campus-based representation is especially needed for campus-specific issues, such as Downtown Bookstore concerns, Polytechnic security issues and challenges of bicycle and skateboard riders at the Tempe campus. These examples are just a few that have been dealt with efficiently and successfully just this academic year.

-Task Force members argue that campus-based representation is flexible and can easily incorporate new entities at ASU, as changes occur and adjustments are needed. Members do not see evidence for it now, though. As of now, the instructors @ ASU online, Lake Havasu, etc. are part timers rooted in other campuses.

-Finally, Task Force members do not agree with the idea that college-based UAC model would strengthen faculty voice; rather, it is the direct and one-on-one contact and interaction with the highest University leadership members that is most productive.

Task Force recommendations:

-President of Senate and Chair of University Academic Council:
Recommendation – have elections for both President/Chair and President/Chair elect [vice-president] as of this year or at the earliest timeline.

-University Academic Council structure:
Recommendation – leave the University Academic Council structure as is; task force members unanimously agree there is no evidence of a problem.

Thank you for your consideration; please feel free to contact us for further discussion on this topic.

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