

Shared Governance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Minutes

The Shared Governance (SG) Committee meeting was held in the President's Conference Room Wednesday, May 7, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by committee chair, Paxton Oliver. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Committee members present were Bob Cage, Ken Clow, Susan Duggins, Gordon Harvey, Paul Karlowitz, Joe McGahan, Paxton Oliver, Pam Saulsberry, John Sutherlin, and Luke Thomas. Priscilla Turner recorded the meeting minutes.

Committee members absent and excused were Karen Briski, Camille Currier, Chip Holloway, Robin Logan, and Denny Ryman.

Suggested edits of the focus group themes made by the SG committee are listed below:

- From the Focus Group reports, the committee developed relative themes.

The themes are as follows:

- Models
 - More options to examine
 - Source of options
- Representation
 - Equitable and fair representation
 - Who is represented?
 - What will the selection/election process be?
- Communication
 - Need better 360 degree campus communication at all levels.
 - Need better disbursement of information to Administration levels, Faculty, and Staff from Faculty Senate and SG committees, e.g., SG Committee of 17 and all SG committees listed in the SG Procedures document.
 - Need better communication from the administration, e.g. President, Provost, Deans downward as well as lateral communication to and from all SG committees, Faculty Senate, Faculty, and Staff.
 - Flow of communication
- Participatory Management Role
 - How the body (chosen model) will be included in decision making
 - Participation often does not seem to influence decisions

- Culture
 - The culture needs to change at all levels.
 - Management styles at all levels e.g., administration and faculty are inappropriate for Shared Governance
 - People tend to want things; however, they tend to not always want to accept ownership
 - Current lack of involvement by many
 - Is the culture going to change and how?
- Approval Process for Selecting Models
 - Who is going to make the decision
 - How will a decision be made?
 - When will it be made? i.e. timetable
- Themes will be posted on the SG website by 5-12-08. Additionally, there will be a posted trailer explaining how all focus group responses can be accessed.
- After discussion, a motion was made by G. Harvey that there is widespread campus acceptance of the SG Principles and Procedures; therefore, there is no need for a campus vote on these two documents. P. Saulsberry seconded the motion and motion was unanimously passed by the committee.
- P. Oliver consulted with Winston DeCuir, Jr. (UL system lawyer) regarding Civil Service (CS) employee representation in SG. P. Oliver reported to the committee that DeCuir Jr stated that CS employees can legally be involved with SG on campus; however, they would be required to abstain from all campus political votes (need more clarification on political) and that they would often be asked to vote on issues that would not and can not impact them (academics, etc.) CS employees have their own grievance procedure and could not file a grievance under campus SG. According to DeCuir, there are no other CS employees involved in Louisiana campus SG bodies.
- J. Sutherlin suggested that the SG Committee think about ways to obtain input from ULM CS employees. The Committee decided that, after CS input, the SG Committee should make a recommendation about degree of inclusion of CS employees in ULM SG. This recommendation should be made by the Committee to the President in early summer 2008.
- P. Oliver requested that the committee check their e-mails often in order to maintain interaction among the committee. The committee will ultimately use e-mail and telephones for communication throughout the summer break.

Recorders P. Turner and P. Oliver