

Forum #1: November 22, 2005

GC 205

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

Sharon Cramer
Mitchell

Bruce Bryski

John DeNisco Larry Flood

Bill

Campus members participating:

Past Senate Chair Janet Ramsey

Past Senate Chair Howard Reid

Forum conversation

Chair Cramer set the stage.

Janet Ramsey framed her remarks in terms of her past service as Senate Chair.

1. Senate can be the "Harry Potter" model, with the governance process of the people present. Academic Primacy is critical (agreed to by Howard Reid)
2. Faculty affairs regarding curriculum should prevail, and faculty should be in the majority.
3. The multiplicity of voices are part of the Senate, with in some cases individuals being represented by individuals directly, and at times it is done by others.

In bringing up her issues in relation to University College:

- Establishment of University College was recommended based on consolidation of the first year experience (from two campus committees, one chaired by Wanda Davis).
- University College is a national model – whether or not the name is a problem for some or not.
- All faculty and staff are hired by Academic Affairs, and see their primary mission as academic.
- She provided a handout which summarized the Mission of University College, as well as the staffing. She discussed the points in the mission.
- Questions were asked about the Full-time Faculty (7) listed. All of the individuals listed as Full-time Faculty teach at least one course a semester. Three of the seven moved from 10 month to 12 months. Their faculty lines were moved to University College, and replacements were approved by Academic Affairs.
- Concerns were raised about the elimination of the International Committee, as the opportunity to raise issues about the international students.
- If at large were to be eliminated, then there is no opportunity for University College persons to run for those seats.
- Question: will University College grow? Unlikely. Hoping to have more permanency, especially for ENG 101 and ENG and 102.

John DeNisco had a few questions:

- With respect to the professional staff, it is presumed that they are part of the Professional Staff in general, correct?
 - If University College has representation, one or more seats, would the people get to be part of the Professional Staff voting group as well as the University College?
 - If At Large was to be eliminated (which is the way many members of the University College are on the Senate), the people in University

College would be competing with many more people in the Professional Staff than faculty are.

Bill Mitchell's question:

- Aren't students representing the students of University College? Why would the students of the University College not be part of the regular constituency?
 - The issue of representation is very murky.

John DeNisco's question:

- Were there people who were not represented at the Senate?
 - Howard Reid: People enter into the conversations on an as-needed basis (e.g., athletics fee).
 - Janet Ramsey: Student groups were highly problematic when she was chair. Student leaders within the dept. aren't represented on the Senate. Professional staff tend to be very quiet. Administrative liaisons also tend to be quiet.

Howard Reid:

- Agree with the notion of Academic Primacy.
- Disagree with the idea of representation by units. Disagree with the idea of "critical units" being represented. Don't know how we are defining units (e.g., aren't health, safety, honors).
- The Senate, from his perspective, isn't broken – why try to fix it?
- Looking at the increase of six by a new School, we saw an easy way to cut back, by considering the cut of the At Large category.
 - At Large people don't really come to the constituencies – are they really representing all?
 - Don't believe that At Large senators really represent more broadly the campus. Don't see the loss. Thinks it would actually simpler than anything else.
 - Only the SUNY Senators really represent all.
- The Senate is already large – with more people, the group can be considered more intimidating, and therefore less democratic.
- If you start by representing units (other than the library), how do you define them. When do you stop?
- Keep it simple. Affiliation with a School (current system) is something to consider.
 - Janet agrees with the simple idea. Three units – faculty, staff and students – all open to all possible people. There may be dangers to decreasing the size of the Senate.
- Avoid the concept of "unit."

The meeting ended at 1:30. All were thanked for their participation.