REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: The Faculty Officers http://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/

DATE: May 6, 2019

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Welcome back to Jane Cherry, who has returned from leave. Thank you to Sabrina Smith and Madeleine Crespo for their support of all of our activities.
- The runoff election opened April 1 and closed April 12. The number of faculty who voted in this election was greater than the number who voted in the General Election.
- An Open Letter to President Robbins in support of our community, and inspired by the Open Session speakers from April 1 was drafted and circulated to Faculty Senators, and then to the Campus Community. The letter had almost 600 UA cosigners, most of them faculty members, when Chair Summers delivered it to the President. We invite discussion on the process, and append some background and questions for thoughts, below.
- The Gender and Equity Town Hall was held on May 3rd.
- The Senate ad Hoc Committee on Career Track Faculty began its work.
- In various venues, officers listened to and provided feedback on the proposal that the UA join Minerva Schools at KGB for a pilot of several general education courses. We have heard significant concerns raised about the project’s academic quality, the conditions, and the cost of participation from a variety of stakeholders. UWGEC recently passed a motion that indicated that committee was not in favor of the University’s participation in this program. We commend the proposers for sharing the proposal widely, and gathering this feedback, and we are confident that any further action will be conducted in a way that’s consistent with our Faculty Constitution and the UA’s MOU on Shared Governance.

GOALS:

- Ensure that initiatives from the Strategic Planning process are proceeding in a manner consistent with the principles of shared governance at the University of Arizona.
- Mobilize faculty who do not participate in shared governance for input on issues of shared governance.
- Broker critical relationships between the faculty and administration in an effort to open channels for transparency in how we work collaboratively at the University.
- Continue to assist in the development, approval and implementation of changes to UHAP Chapter 7.
- Develop a Qualtrics tool (drawing on our current voting system and UAccess Analytics) that will allow individuals not picked up by the Census to petition the Committee on Faculty Membership for inclusion. The tool will automatically draw pertinent data on petitioners from UAccess and elicit any other necessary information through a survey.
Moderation and use of listservs for issues related to Faculty Senate

**Background:** There are a number of listservs that are administered centrally in the Faculty Center. The largest distributions are for the following lists:

- generalfaculty@list.arizona.edu: which includes all members of the General Faculty and is used for voting purposes
- allfaculty@list.arizona.edu: which includes all members of the General Faculty as well as all faculty who do not, or do not yet, meet the criteria for membership (i.e., adjuncts, visiting faculty, instructors, CT/NT faculty hired within the last 3 years, etc.)

These listservs are moderated. While anyone can request that a message be sent, all messages are first reviewed either by Faculty Center staff or Faculty Officers before they can be sent.

There are currently no explicit policies or procedures relating to the moderation of these lists, other than the appropriate use policies that apply to all UA IT infrastructure. The fact that faculty officers could be both requesters and moderators results in officers’ having more direct access to the listservs than other faculty members have.

**An Example:** The recent Open Letter process began with comments made by our colleagues during Open Session. Discussion in Senate suggested that there may be significant numbers of Senators who would support further action, and that the issue was time-sensitive.

Chair Summers, in collaboration with others who were in attendance during open session, crafted an open letter, which was shared with Senators, with a very short timeline for response (less than 24 hours).

During that brief window, a significant number of Senators informally expressed their support of the letter and asked to be added as signers. Their names were added to the original document.

Based on that response, officers determined that it would be acceptable to circulate a link to the letter using the allfaculty listserv, with an explanation of the process that the letter had gone through.

Since we were both originators of the message and moderators of the list, we were able to do so quickly. The mailing generated >550 signatures. We also received 3-5 responses from faculty who were uncomfortable with this process.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Should there be general guidelines on the moderation/use of these lists by the Faculty Officers that is approved by Senate (or the General Faculty), or is it appropriate that the Faculty Officers, in their elected roles, should have the current levels of discretion?

2. Under what conditions can messages on behalf of Senate be sent? Should guidelines be developed and vetted/approved by Senate?