

Minutes of the CAS ad-hoc Committee on Governance
April 15, 2014
Submitted by Charles Sharpless

Present: Charlie Sharpless, Brian Rizzo, Leigh Frackleton, George Meadows
Absent: Colin Rafferty, Andrea Livi Smith

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am

The committee noted that as of December of 2014, it will have existed for two years, and at that time the CAS Senate will need to decide if there is compelling reason for this committee to continue its business.

The committee then discussed the following items:

- Jim Lollar's meetings with COE and COB
- General sentiment about governance reform at COE and COB
- Remaining issues related to curriculum and program proposal and development
- Next steps for CAS governance reform

From these discussions we concluded the following:

- Faculty at COE and COB generally do not see a compelling need for immediate governance reform because they see their college level governance functioning smoothly
- There appear to be serious structural problems remaining with the new curriculum and program approval process at both the college and university levels related to:
 - circularity of the process and unduly long approval times
 - a lack of a mechanism at any stage of the process to assure that appropriate and necessary resources will be committed to make approved programs succeed
- CAS governance seems adrift, with functioning committees but no compelling oversight role for the CAS Senate
- The CAS Senate needs to deliberate the following:
 - What is the governance role of the CAS senate?
 - To what extent do the current CAS committees require CAS faculty oversight?
 - If CAS faculty oversight is required, is a full Senate necessary?
 - Are there alternative models for a college governing body that could serve the same general role as the CAS Senate?

Our committee thus recommends the following course of actions:

- Over summer and fall of 2014, the CAS Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance will more clearly define and study problems related to new program/curriculum development at UMW.
- Beginning in fall 2014, the CAS Senate should address the questions posed above.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Sharpless, Chair (5/7/2014)