

Notes
Shared Governance/Transparency Subcommittee
November 1, 2018

Present: Melissa Seixas, Chair; Kayla Rykiel, Nicole Washington

I. Call to Order

Chair Seixas called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and thanked everyone for their continued flexibility and work on the committee.

II. New Business – Action Items

Minutes from the October 24, 2018 were approved.

III. New Business – Information Items

a. Introduction and Context

Chair Seixas explained that the subcommittee is working on finalizing the recommendations that will be presented to the Task Force. Peter Stokes from Huron provided an overview of the goals for the phone call and what they hope will be accomplished. Mr. Stokes noted that he appreciated the draft information shared by Chair Seixas and Huron will facilitate the meeting to review the draft recommendations along with accompanying annotations made by Huron. The process will incorporate reviewing each focus area to move to a final drafting. Huron will create this final draft from the discussion and feedback from members and provide it to the subcommittee for final review prior to submitting to the Task Force at large.

b. Discussion

Mike Stallworth began the discussion with the broad governance focus area. Members discussed the annotated comments regarding language clarification or delineating roles and responsibilities. Members also discussed the term “branch campus” and the need to provide a clear recommendations on what the campuses should look like. Huron will redraft recommendations using member discussion while adding bullet (e) to clarify some additional reporting and accountability within USF leadership.

Members then discussed the faculty governance focus area. There was consensus around most of the recommendations along with the comments provided by Huron. Discussion centered on ensuring the recommendations reflected equitable representation and an opportunity for officers to represent all 3 campuses. Huron will update the recommendations to reflect the discussion while also ensuring language reflecting that transparent faculty governance will support student success through the consistent delivery of quality student experiences.

The general education focus area discussion highlighted equitable representation and incorporation of transfer student concerns. Members highlighted that a single general education structure must allow for unique campus identity.

Members reviewed the student governance focus area concentrating on clear language for equal representation and opportunity from all 3 campuses on a single university student government council. Members further discussed the possibility of rotating officer representation within the single structure. There is a need for campus student government activity to align within the single structure. The ongoing dialogue regarding the consolidation transition will be key in ensuring the evolvement of student governance throughout the process.

Within the focus area of budget transparency, members discussed the idea of a placeholder that allows for alignment around activities in other subcommittees and within the academic structure and budgets. Members discussed the idea of examining and determining a fee structure to minimize impact on students with a provision for grandfathering in students under existing fee structures. Members highlighted that the consolidation process should not negatively impact students, especially not through increased costs and underscored an emphasis on not increasing fees. The subcommittee stressed the importance of communicating fee assessment, application and services to current students and families as well as prospective students and families, including any transition periods between fee structures. The final dialogue including language around exploring and recommending the feasibility of differentiated fee structures among the three campuses recognizing that equitable fee allocation does not mean equitable services. There was also discussion regarding the consideration of allocating a pool of funds towards system-wide programming.

The subcommittee discussed ways to improve shared services through recommendations that support incentives to identify efficiencies and to encourage cross training and innovative technologies.

Huron will incorporate this discussion into a new document for final review. The document will contain five focus areas moving forward (move shared services into budget transparency). The issue statements are visionary and it was recommended to leave them as is for the Task Force to provide consistency at the end of the process. Next steps include an additional phone call to review the final document. Chair Seixas requested models and research from Huron regarding budgets and hiring acquisitions. Huron will circle back with that research, noting it would be important to include institutions in the SASCOC region and multi-campus institutions.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.