

Faculty Governance Meeting
April 30, 2014

In Attendance:

Ted Endreny, Scott Shannon, Scott Blair, Steve Shaw, John Wagner, Bob Meyers, Anne Lombard, Mary Chandler, JoAnne Ellis, Kevin Reynolds, Ruth Owens, Heidi Webb, Laura Rickard, Doug Daley, Bob French, Bruce Bongarten, Kenneth Tiss, Lindi Quackenbush, Paul Hirsch, Sharon Moran, Ruth Yanai, Rene' Germain, Myron Mitchell, Chuck Spuches, Jack Manno, Karaline Rothwell, Giorgios Montrakis, Bob Malmshemer, Eddie Bevilacqua, Russ Briggs, Gord Patterson, Andrea Parker, Rebecca Rundell, Brenda Greenfield, Sue Sanford, Neil Ringler, George Kyanka, Mary Triano, Eileen Baldassarre, Chris Nowak, David Keiber, Teri Frese, Ted Endreny, Chuck Kroll, Phillippe Vidon, David Newman, Steve Stehman, Lianjun Zhang, Biljana Bujanovic, Mary Thompson, Rick Beal, Nory Mitchell, Sharon Moran, Howard Hollander, Anne Moore, Scott Blair, Sue Anagnost, Theresa Selfa, Ted Dibble, Claire Dunn, Neil Murphy, Nasri Abdel-Aziz, Chuck Maynard, Klaus Doelle, Laura Crandall, Sue Sanford, Danette Desimone, Valerie Luzadis, Yuan-Zong Lai, Shijie Liu, Paul Szemkow, Melissa Fierke

Late arrivals – Bill Nicholson, Lisa S., Anne Brown, Theresa Kaier-May, Sue Benoit, Cheryl Liptak, Kim Schultz

President Wheeler's address: video

Kelley's speech:

Bruce and I attended a Shared Governance meeting last week. The morning's plenary speaker was Benjamin Ginsberg author of *The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters.* If you've read the book, you'll know that Dr. Ginsberg believes that we should oppose everything and anything that administrators want to do. I learned a new word that morning, OBSTREPEROUS, it's fun to say. I, of course, knew what it meant but I'd never been encouraged to be that way, and it's simply not my nature to be that way. But the word is fun to say... My point here is that Dr. Ginsberg considers Administration to be the Borg and that resistance is futile unless we are obstreperous. Needless to say, the administrative folks and many of the faculty were a bit taken aback by his message and some were even glad that he dropped his message and ran.

The point of my story here is that the reason I asked Bruce to present with me is because he's rare, he's an administrator that believes in Shared Governance who has worked alongside of the Executive Committee to make a strong and productive Governance body and has clear reasons why he wants it to be strong. And I realized talking to my colleagues across the country just how rare that really is, they seemed to always be fighting with their admin, their presidents their vice-presidents and deans and it just didn't seem like they were very productive. How can being at odds all the time mean that anything gets accomplished? So I wanted my friends across the campus to hear an administrator talk who supported governance. But I like the Provost at Albany, was struck by the words I was hearing from faculty, words like obstreperous and fight and battle and oppose and stand in the way and block.

In the presentation Bruce and I gave we talked about collaboration, finding common ground, compromise and building community. I can't imagine accomplishing any of what we've done this year, whether you agree or not with what has been accomplished by being obstreperous!

But I find myself wondering as I often do at the end of a semester, what kind of community does ESF want? One where the faculty run the show as Dr. Ginsberg professes or one of collaboration and discourse and finding common ground, where faculty work alongside professional staff, support staff and administration? I'm hoping it's the latter because that's what I will be working toward as we move forward for the next two years.

Which brings me to my next point about community. Community is defined in biology, and Melissa will correct me if I'm wrong, as a group of interacting living organisms sharing a populated environment. I like to imagine that these communities interact, they each have their roles and they carry out their functions, they share the weight of the well-being of the community equally. Well, I am sure there are many examples of this in nature, but people, I'm not so sure. I've been governance leader for 4 years, I got here when there was no name on the Executive Chair line and I was a write in, the next two elections I ran unopposed, in neither of those elections did I nominate myself. I could have said no, but I had one thing more I wanted to accomplish and it didn't happen until this spring

and until I knew I would be Chair again. Bruce has decided that this position, Executive Chair, comes with a 25% Administrative Workload allocation that I have now successfully negotiated for a course release for me for the Fall semester. This is the first time ever that there is some incentive for running this show. While this is my negotiated workload reduction, at least there is now precedent so I'm hoping that this makes this job much more attractive. BUT my point isn't the 25% or the teaching reduction, my point is that we are not functioning as a utopian community. I see the same faces in front of me, I see the same faces at EC, on committee rosters, at First Year Experience Meetings and at Kids to work and at the State Fair and in the news doing service – a small group of people are the ones carrying the weight for the community. Several years ago we split the committees so each individual committee could do less and to spread the work, it has helped but we're not there yet. We have critics who offer criticism without possession of the facts and that never offer solutions, just criticisms.

Where is the community? Where is the sharing of the work. If you are a faculty member I am pretty sure many of you can tell me what you think your rights are, but could you tell me what your responsibilities are to uphold those rights? With rights always comes responsibility, I ask you to think about what those are and how well you are upholding them.

My challenge as we go forward and end this year is to think about what is your role in the community and perhaps what do you want it to be next year? What share of the burden do you take up and go forward with and how do you make someone else more comfortable, or share the burden of the work that needs to be done to uphold your rights as a faculty member, professional staff member, student or administrator.

To quote JFK "Ask not what your country can do for you but rather what can you do for your country". Let's learn to use words like collaborate, listen and finding common ground. Let's support those who stand up in front of the group and try to be the voice for the group. Let's offer solutions before we offer criticism and let's try to build a community based on courtesy and understanding. Let's hear each other, and learn from each other and work toward being an inclusive, welcoming COMMUNITY where we smile when we talk about where we work. There is always two sides to an issue and the more we understand about both sides, the better decisions we make.

Lots of biblical references come to mind at this point, so I'll end with, thank you to those of you who have supported Governance this year and previous years and I look forward to working with the EC for 2014-2015 and upholding our part of the Community.

List of meetings for the coming year... on PPT.

No questions...

Bruce B – Webcam task force report

Questions on the use of webcams in the classrooms – P. Wheeler requested they be turned off and the issue explored by committee (Mar 26). Committee members (BB as chair, J. Rufo, H. , S. Becksted, N. Abrams, C. Whipps, USA & GSA reps).

Questions:

- 1) What are the concerns?
- 2) What are the purposes they serve?
- 3) What do they actually do?
- 4) Alternatives to the webcam
- 5)

Met weekly & discussed concerns. They will draft recommendations next week and have them reviewed and finalized before the end of the semester. They will be presented at the beginning of the fall semester.

Questions: None

Doug Daley – CC activity report, committee inactive for the summer, ask Scott Shannon if you need something. GenEd website listings on ESF website are current. Developing consistent course descriptions for courses at multiple levels. Minor enrollment form will be updated soon – also with updates on course requirements.

New courses were approved... and minor revisions to some approved. Foreign language requirements were updated (if it sounds like a f.l. course then it probably is). A number of courses were identified at SU (received 0 comments on it). CC will need to update their plan sheets. Don't discourage taking f.l. classes to meet GenEd – you can take Persian, etc. Did not approve American Sign Language, but could do it by petition if justification is there.

Recommend adopting revisions to ERE curriculum, f.l. and 1 CR in

Comments/questions – none

Voice vote – all ayes, none opposed

COC meetings begin in Sept. – let them know if anyone needs anything.

Scott Blair – winners of SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence – Beverly Agtuca & Lauren Alteio
Student Athlete – Timmy Callahan

Brenda Greenfield – Foundation Teaching Award: Gary M. Scott

Neil Ringle – Exemplary Researcher Award: Bill Powell & Chuck Maynard

Ruth & Bruce - SUNY Chancellor's Awards

Teri Frese - Excellence in Classified Service

Sue Benoit – Excellence in Professional Service

Steve Stehman - Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities

Chuck Kroll - Excellence in Teaching

Kelley Donaghy - Excellence in Faculty Service