

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

UNIVERSITY SENATE AND FACULTY COUNCIL, 2005-06

In 2005-06, the University Senate and Faculty Council had another good year. The productive partnerships formed last year with members of the central administration continued to strengthen this year. This brief report highlights the main activities and achievements of each governance group.

Faculty Council

- The appointments of one-year members were made for the first time by the Executive Committee in consultation with the President and Provost. The Executive Committee started its deliberations in August about the appointments, but it would be better if they began in April or May to ensure that all appointments are filled by the beginning of the year. The process itself worked well, and the appointees participated well in both attendance and substantial discussion of issues.
- Developed the process by which faculty members will be appointed as Faculty Counselors to committees of the Board of Trustees. The Council will maintain a pool of nominees from which the Board will make appointments. This was approved by the Faculty Council and the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees.
- In response to issues first raised in Faculty Council, the Fringe Benefits Committee of the University Senate and the new V.P. of Human Resources, Peter Barnes, consulted the Council on issues with the new health plans. This led to employees who met certain conditions being allowed to switch health plans and to a new consultative process for designing a set of health plans that better address the needs of employees.
- Approved the new on-line election process of members to the Presidential Advisory Committee.
- Reviewed some elements of the implementation of the Strategic Plan: its cost, the comprehensive campaign, sustainability committee's report, the campus master plan, Clifton Corridor redevelopment, transportation plan, the use of the strategic initiative fund.

- Work on the Teaching Center by UACT continued. This may affect the University Teaching Fund administered by the Faculty Council. This year UTF was reconstituted and may be done next year as well, depending on the ultimate recommendations by UACT.
- On a disappointing note, it had been conceived that the Faculty Council could work on defining who "the faculty" of university are and what it means to be a faculty member: the responsibilities, rights, privileges of the various ranks and positions. This is currently an issue for the University and the just administration of its policies and programs. However, there was insufficient staff support available to collect the information needed and the Council rejected the proposal that its members collect the information themselves.

University Senate

- Worked closely with the V.P & C.I.O Rich Mendola to set up an information technology governance structure that would allow for transparency and input from the community for making smart decisions about IT.
- Reviewed some elements of the implementation of the Strategic Plan: its cost, the comprehensive campaign, sustainability committee's report, the campus master plan, Clifton Corridor redevelopment, transportation plan.
- Heard from the Transforming Community project, which aims to help Emory be able to communicate effectively about issues of diversity and thereby become a healthy community in dealing with its issues.
- Amended the Athletics and Recreation Policy Committee's mission and name to bring it up to date. The Senate Executive Committee continued lunch meetings (sponsored by the Provost's Office) with the chairs of the three Presidential Commissions. The objectives of these "Leaders' Lunches" were to improve communications between standing governance groups and to deepen understanding of each other's projects and goals. It was decided beginning next year to formally constitute the group with the President of the University Senate as its chair and to convene meetings quarterly.

In sum, the Senate and Council enjoyed a highly productive year. We look forward to continuing our robust partnership with Emory's leadership team.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Rogers
Senate President, 2005-2006