

Governance Committee Report

Fall Plenary meeting – October 17-18, 2008

The University Faculty Senate Governance Committee met during the September Planning meeting, and outlined its tasks for the year. In addition to distribution (at the Fall 2008 UFS Plenary) of the 2008 updated *Governance Handbook*, the committee members identified several new initiatives. The guideline for selected activities was affirmative answers to three questions from Joe Hildreth, past President of the University Faculty Senate, and member of the Governance Committee:

- Is there a powerful, evident need for action?
- Is there a high likelihood that the proposed recommendation to address the need will take place?
- Is it likely that the recommendation can be sustained beyond the participation of those currently addressing the problem?

All identified initiatives for 2008-9 have affirmative answers to these questions. The initiatives center primarily around the topic of “Leadership” which has been of interest to the University Faculty Senate for some time. The initiatives are:

- (preliminary exploration) **Webinar for University Faculty Senate Senators and Campus Governance Leaders** focused on the pragmatic skills associated with effective leadership at the committee level.
- **Resources for Governance Leaders and Future Leaders** Note that these guides and materials will be available on the UFS website, incorporated into the next edition of the Governance Handbook, as well as being published as separate documents:
 - **Orientation Guides for new University Faculty Senators**
 - **Orientation Guides for new Campus Governance Leaders**
 - **PowerPoint directed at newly tenured faculty members** (about the University Faculty Senate)
- **Recognizing “shared governance” role models**
 - In-depth interviews with several SUNY presidents who practice informal and formal “best practices” related to shared governance
 - Providing support for a panel of SUNY presidents (a representative nominated by each UFS Sector) to discuss this topic at the Spring 2009 UFS Plenary

- **Establish supports for/outreach to Parliamentarians for UFS Campus Governance Organizations**, including inviting them to participate in the CGL-sponsored web-cast of Ed Alfonsin's presentation on Parliamentary Procedures (taking place on 10-16-08), and establishing a list serv for campus parliamentarians

The Governance Committee was also asked to review the current Guidelines for Presidential Searches, which will be done during this year.

2008-9 Governance Committee members:

Sharon Cramer, Chair (Buffalo State); Tom Barthel (Herkimer CC; Community College Liaison); Susan Camp (Oswego); Nan Carroll (Albany); Melody Eldred (Cobleskill); Marti Ellermann (System Administration liaison); Deborah Firestone (Stony Brook); Jim Grillo (Alfred State; ex officio member of committee as Convener of the Campus Governance Leaders, or CGLs); Fred Hildebrand (System Administration Liaison) Joe Hildreth (Potsdam); Eric Johansson (Maritime); Yoav Kaddar (New Paltz); Shelly Mozlin (Optometry); Adam Ryburn (Oneonta); Dennis Showers (Geneseo)