

Long-Range Planning Committee, Minutes, 11/14/08

Present: Chris Cirimo, Mel King, David Ritchie, Kimberly Rombach, Cynthia Sarver, Danielle Singer, Virginia Levine

Chair Cirimo convened the meeting at 8:45am, distributing an agenda for the meeting. He asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the [date] meeting. It was noted that the minutes had not been sent to the Review of Governance Committee members who had attended. Ritchie moved that the minutes be accepted, pending corrections or additions from the Review of Governance Committee members. Seconded. Passed.

Member Terms of Office - Cirimo indicated that he'd received the terms of office for current members from the Committee on Committees, and passed around a copy for members to review. No-one had any inaccuracies to report.

Report on Faculty Senate meetings – Cirimo indicated that he'd reported at the Oct 28th Senate meeting that the LRPC had met with the president and provost and were in the process of clarifying the LRPC charge in light of the administrative Strategic Planning Steering Committee's (SPSC) formation. Cirimo recounted that the provost responded in the Senate meeting that he saw the SPSC as an idea committee and he did not see any conflict between the LRPC's charge and the SPSC's.

Report on Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting – Cirimo reported that the SPSC had met earlier this week, and had spent most of its meeting time brainstorming about its role, which was not yet well clarified. He listed the members. It was observed that the 8 administrative appointees outnumbered the 6 faculty appointees, which Cirimo minimized but said he might suggest adding an additional faculty member per school (to make 9 faculty SPSC members). Singer asked if there were student members of the SPSC – Cirimo responded that he thought not.

Role of LRPC – Discussion segued into the role of the LRPC with members generally agreeing that the LRPC:

- also should be considered an idea committee;
- could focus on presenting what the committee sees would be the ideal SUNY Cortland as distilled and synthesized from departmental strategic plans, perhaps through looking for commonalities in the various departmental strategic plans, while keeping in mind the mission statement for the college [a bottom-up process];
- should focus on helping to discover, refine, represent, and recommend what could be the academic long-range plan for the college – since the academic aspect reflects the committee's elected representative base as a Faculty Senate committee – as contrasted with all the divisional aspects of the college's strategic plans, which the LRPC has struggled to review over the past couple years;
- has a role in developing faculty and student input about what is important for the strategic plans of the college, given the second part of the committee's official charge [again, a bottom-up process];
- in thinking about how to proceed, the committee might both

(a) ask departments either (i) to prioritize the aspects of their departmental strategic plans if there exists a departmental strategic plan, or (ii) if no formal strategic plans exists for the department, to submit a statement of the strategic directions of their department with those directions prioritized, and
(b) ask faculty and students directly to suggest strategic directions as individuals through use of a wiki and other methods of input like open forums;
-- would present its findings and recommendations to the Faculty Senate and to the Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

While Cirimo suggested at one point that the LRPC make a list of all the strategic and long-range plans established at the college (including the mission reviews, MOU's, Master Plan, divisional strategic plans, departmental and unit plans, etc.), as noted above the committee members decided to focus on the departmental and unit plans with the intent to represent an academic long-range plan/mission for the college. Cirimo said he would try to identify which departments and units already have departmental strategic plans.

It was noted that the LRPC needs to present whatever role and process it wants to pursue to the Faculty Senate for approval, per the Senate bylaws in the College Handbook. To facilitate that step, it was suggested that, if members could respond to the minutes for this meeting over the next few days, then Cirimo might be able to take the above proposed role and process for gathering input from faculty and students on long-range plans to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting next Tuesday, Nov. 18, for the Steering Committee's response. A final document would have to be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval, but presenting the concept to the Steering Committee is seen as the appropriate first step.

Next LRPC Meeting – members agreed to meet next Friday, November 21, at 8:30-10 in Old Main 127.

Adjourned meeting at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Ritchie