

Governance Retreat Planning Work Group Meeting

6 April 2011

12-1:30 p.m.

Present: Karynne Kleine (Co-secretary), Craig Turner (Co-secretary), Dean Baker, Mike Rose

Absent: Dee Sams—without electrical power (Chair)

9 Mar 2011: The GRPWG had met on 9 March to review information gathering survey results collected at the February meeting of the University Senate and summarized by the chair but notes for the 8 March meeting were neither prepared nor distributed. The survey invited university senators to indicate attendance intentions, refreshment preferences, and recommended issues / topics for inclusion on the agenda of the 10 Aug 2011 governance retreat. GRPWG members left that meeting “tasked” to return to today’s meeting armed with suggestions about how to modify the existing plans for the tentative agenda for the 10 Aug 2011 retreat so as to promote the attendance of outgoing senators (who traditionally have not been closely involved with the day’s proceedings, and the aforementioned survey results suggested a similar outcome for this year’s retreat). This is where we began.

6 Apr 2011: Major points that emerged from today’s meeting:

- 1) Suggest to ECUS that it plan to discuss (and begin to resolve) the several entwined issues related to the election of officers/senators **at the University Senate meeting to be held in the afternoon immediately following the 10 Aug 2011 governance retreat** . Besides hearing reports and voting on motions GRPWG members feel that University Senate service would be deemed more valuable if substantive issues were grappled with at meetings. This resulted in the GRPWG recommendation that this issue be placed on the 10 Aug 2011 University Senate meeting agenda and not be a part of the actual retreat.
- 2) After discussion a suggestion that received wide support as to how to spend the roughly one hour of group work time at the retreat that might promote reflection [likely participants would be continuing and outgoing university senators] was to use the session to consider and discuss the issue of uneven attendance and participation by University Senators in shared governance. In order to do this it was felt that some group (ECUS? GRWPG?) would summarize the related concerns – *several were raised such as Standing Committees cancelling meetings rather than being proactive in seeking issues for the committee, University Senators not attending meetings, some University Senators allowing the bulk of the work to be carried out by others, new University Senators assimilating to a culture of minimal input, how Standing Committee Chairs and University Senate as a whole responds to low activity* – to use as a starting point to stimulate a seed the deliberation and reflection. In order to do this **GRWPG is asking ECUS to firmly request of Standing Committee Chairs** that for each Standing Committee an unscientific categorization of the percentage of committee members who were *very active, active, not very active, or inactive* in the committee work for the 2010-11 academic year. These data might also include demographic information [outgoing, continuing, incoming AND appointees, senators, volunteers, etc.] of individuals falling into each category and would be available at the retreat. The two ECUS members who are also on this work group will not be able to attend ECUS on 8 Apr 2011 so when these minutes are distributed we’ll need to ensure that ECUS is aware of the request.
- 3) We began to pencil in sessions that we might facilitate: Karynne & Dean—Reflective session; Mike & Craig—Orientation session.

No upcoming meeting date, location or time was established. **TBD**