

TO: University Faculty Senate

FROM: Governance Committee and Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution on Guidelines for Special Campus Governance Visitations

RATIONALE

The University Faculty Senate is periodically invited to use its good offices to examine prolonged, serious problems in governance which have developed between the faculty and administration. Recent visitations were conducted at a time when the Senate did not have a Governance Committee.

The following guidelines outline the responsibilities of the Senate President and the Executive Committee in responding to a request to create a special governance visitation committee. The guidelines recognize the charge and role of the Governance Committee when such a visitation is requested.

RESOLUTION

The University Faculty Senate endorses the following guidelines to be used in special campus governance visitations. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to prevent the Governance Committee from meeting the responsibilities detailed in its charge.

Guidelines for Special Campus Governance Visitations

When a prolonged dispute on governance exists between the president and the faculty governance body on a SUNY campus, the campus president and local governance leader may jointly request that the University Faculty Senate use its good offices to attempt to restore effective collegial governance. This joint request should come in the form of a letter signed by the campus president and the governance leader and addressed to the President of the Faculty Senate.

1. Upon receipt of the letter, the Faculty Senate President will consult with the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee to determine whether or not such a visitation is warranted.

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2. The Senate President shall, in consultation with the Executive Committee and Chair of the Governance Committee, prepare a detailed charge, name the Chair of the committee, appoint members to the committee and convene its first meeting. The President should also receive the benefit of consultation with past Senate Presidents with experience in such matters and persons who have previously chaired such committees.

3. For the visitation committee, members should be sought who have exemplary governance experience and who are respected for their integrity and for their capacity for being non-partisan in dealings with faculty and administrators. The Committee should reflect the diversity of the "SUNY Family". The Committee will always include a person from SUNY Central who shall act, not in any official capacity as a Central administrator, but rather as a person experienced in the ways of governance within SUNY. Finally, it is not required that Committee members currently be members of the Senate.

4. Prior to its visit the Committee shall solicit and receive all documentation necessary to completing its charge successfully. All documents shall be crossfiled simultaneously with the campus president and the campus governance leader. In every instance the Visitation Committee will strive to respect the authority, prerogatives and responsibility of the college president and the campus governance leader.

5. Following the campus visit, the Committee shall prepare its recommendation in the form of a final report addressed to the SUNY Faculty Senate President, the campus president and the campus governance leader. It is most fitting that this report be delivered in person by two members of the visitation committee at a meeting with the college president and the local governance leader. At this meeting it would be appropriate to discuss the steps the campus might take to review, disseminate and respond to the recommendations in the report.

6. The Senate, through its Governance Committee, shall remain interested in the final disposition and ultimate effectiveness of its recommendations and shall examine these recommendations for policy implications for governance in SUNY.