

Minutes

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE July 19, 2018

Board Members: Mehul Sanghani (Chair), Mehmood Kazmi, Jeff Veatch (by telephone).

VPI & SU Staff (by telephone): Kay Heidbreder, Kim O'Rourke

Mr. Sanghani convened this special meeting of the Governance & Administration Committee at 3:50 p.m. at 10780 Parkridge Boulevard in Reston, Virginia, for the purpose of considering the governance and selection of the student representatives to the Board, as charged by the Rector.

Mr. Sanghani summarized what had transpired to date. During winter 2018, one of the student representatives raised the issue of the governance and selection of student representatives with the Rector of the Board, who in turn raised the matter at a meeting of the Executive Committee in March 2018. The Executive Committee recommended that the matter be referred to the Governance and Administration (G&A) Committee. Subsequently, at the March Board meeting, the Rector charged the G&A Committee to bring recommendations to the Task Force on Board Structure and Governance. Accordingly, Mr. Sanghani distributed a survey to those who served as student representatives in 2017-18 and the five preceding years, as well as to the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) and the Vice President for Graduate Studies (VPGS). Responses were received from four undergraduate representatives, two graduate representatives, and both vice presidents. The members of the G&A Committee individually had conversations over the course of the June 2018 Board meeting with the student who had raised the matter. Subsequently, another student representative proposed to a member of the committee an idea to compensate the student representatives to the Board for their service.

The committee identified four issues for discussion:

- The governance or organizational home of the student representatives.
- The selection process for the student representatives and integration with the Student Government Association (SGA) and Graduate Student Assembly (GSA).
- The need to promote greater awareness within the student body of the positions of undergraduate and graduate student representatives to the Board in part to attract more interest in the position and more candidates.
- Compensation proposal.

By consensus after discussion, the Governance and Administration Committee agreed:

1. To recommend to the Task Force for Board Structure and Governance that the organizational home for the student representatives be shifted to the Vice President for Governance and Administration (VPPG) effective with the 2018-19 academic year. Currently, the organizational home for the undergraduate student representative is with the Vice President for Student Affairs, and for the graduate student representative is with the Vice President for Graduate Studies. The position of Vice President for Governance and Policy was created in August 2017 and seems a natural “home” for the student representatives. The committee recommends further that the Vice President for Policy and Governance together with the current student representatives develop an addendum to the Handbook for Student Representatives that describes the role and responsibilities of the VPPG with regard to the student representatives within six months. The committee envisions that the VPPG will serve in a neutral role to educate and train the students about the governance of the university, provide oversight for the students and the selection process, and assure the independence of the student representatives in their interactions and communications with the Board. Further, the student representatives’ existing level of interaction with other student leaders as well as with the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Graduate Studies should be preserved if not increased, and the VPPG would support and facilitate these interactions.
2. To recommend that the Governance and Administration Committee be charged with examining the student selection process over the course of the coming year. The G&A Committee would plan to create a small task force consisting of one of its members, the VPPG, and the student representatives that would consult with stakeholders such as the SGA, GSA, VPSA, VPGS, and others that they deem appropriate to develop recommendations for changes to the student selection process. Any minor changes recommended during the fall semester 2018 would be implemented for the 2019-20 student selection process. Recommendations developed over the course of the year for major changes, if any, would be implemented for the 2020-21 student selection process.
3. To recommend that the new task force identified above collaborate with Tracy Vosburgh, Hunter Gresham, the VPSA, and the VPGS on ways to increase the awareness of the BOV student representative positions among the student body.
4. That they were not supportive of the proposal for compensation and would not bring forward such a recommendation to the Task Force.

The three recommendations enumerated above will be provided to the Task Force on Board Structure and Governance for consideration at their July 23 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.