Task Force for the Faculty Governance Structure for the consolidated University of Colorado Denver Recommendations

The Task Force for the Faculty Governance Structure for the consolidated University of Colorado Denver has met for 4 long meetings. The members of the task force were from both campuses and all views on the wisdom of the original consolidation were represented. Monthly meetings were set up between the chancellor, provost, chairs, co-chairs and chair-elects of the two assemblies to discuss issues, concerns and deal breakers (Faculty Governance Executive Committee). Various possible structures for faculty governance were presented and discussed ranging from no change in current practice to complete consolidation of the two assemblies. The decision of the final structure was completely up to the faculty. The only caveat from the coming accreditation was that we needed to study the issues and have good reasons for our choices.

The final decision did not come easy. There were concerns with all the models investigated. Most of the models required some change in current practice on both campuses. Fortunately, some guiding principals emerged from sessions which drove the final recommendation. These were:

- Which structure best supports faculty governance at the University?
- The structure must be feasible in practice and not just in appearance.
- Faculty do not have the luxury to waste there time so committees must be productive.
- Take what is best from both assemblies and improve on their challenges.

The final conclusions of the task force are

- Faculty would be better served with a single Faculty Assembly.
- We are not ready to make a single assembly work. Experimentation must be done to see what would work with the current state of UCD.
- The structure should be set up so that we can grow into a single assembly.
- An equitable structure for compensation or release time for assembly chairs and committee chairs must be set up. (Note: this has already been done for the two chairs of the assemblies.)
- Three new joint faculty committees should be created by Fall 2009 to influence the direction of the University to accomplish the strategic plan. These committees will have co-chairs (one from each campus.) An effort will be made by these committees to deal with issues as a combined committee.
- An assessment of the effectiveness of the above two items should be made at the end of a year. In particular, the three new committee chairs will report on the degree that the two campus members worked together for a common purpose and the degree that the issues were so different between the two campuses that committees used two campus subcommittees.

Therefore, the Task Force for the Faculty Governance Structure for the consolidated University of Colorado Denver would like to recommend the following to the two Assemblies of UCD:
I. Faculty Governance Executive Committee should continue meeting monthly with the chancellor.

II. There should be two joint meetings of the two assemblies each year presided over by the chancellor using technology. (Note: the first joint meeting occurred 2 December 2008 and the next scheduled meeting is 19 May 2009.)

III. Three new joint faculty committees should be created by Fall 2009 to influence the direction of the University to accomplish the strategic plan.
   a. Learning and Scholarship Priorities Committee
   b. Discovery and Innovation Priorities Committee
   c. Budget and Finance Priorities Committee

IV. The Downtown campus will encourage all the schools and colleges on that campus to establish a faculty governance group in their school/college.

V. The co-chairs of the above three committees will make a report to Faculty Assembly at their monthly meeting. At the Spring joint meeting of the two assemblies, the co-chairs will report on the effectiveness of their committee including the degree which problems were approached jointly.

VI. The Faculty Governance Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Assemblies at the Spring joint meeting as to the next steps to be taken by the Assemblies.