Committee on Cross-Divisional Collaboration
Effective 7/1/2013

Background

In response to a recommendation by the University Budget Advisory Committee, a “Workgroup on Across Division Collaboration” was formed in October of 2012. The workgroup’s objective was the proposal of a charge, membership structure, and implementation directions for a “Committee on Cross-Divisional Collaboration.” The workgroup produced a report for the president in March 2013, and that report was shared with the campus community for comment. The report made clear that the workgroup envisioned a standing committee that departed from the norm in goal and practice, one that “look(s) beyond process and cost savings and cultivate(s) a new approach – one that will exemplify … teamwork, synergy, and collaboration….” The workgroup stressed that the new committee “is not a forum to cut jobs or indiscriminately slash budgets. It is a quality improvement committee … (whose) collaboration and communication will lead to an improved environment and increased effectiveness.”

Charge

The Committee on Cross-Divisional Collaboration is a University standing committee, advisory to the president. The Committee is charged with developing processes and opportunities for ensuring collaboration across divisions within the University that will foster synergistic partnerships, problem solving, and team building. In this capacity, the Committee shall identify potential opportunities for collaboration, review those potential opportunities for feasibility, cost, and benefits, and recommend prioritization of opportunities considered worthy of pursuit.

Membership

Total membership of the Committee shall not exceed nine persons. The president shall select three initial members of the Committee. Those initial members shall recommend to the president other possible members from which list the president may appoint up to six additional Committee members. Committee membership should be broadly representative of the University community though not necessarily representative of particular divisions or employment statuses beyond the requirement that composition of the Committee shall always include at least one faculty member, one staff member, and one member of the administration. All faculty appointments to the Committee must occur through the standard Academic Senate consultation process. Committee members shall serve three-year terms, renewable; terms of the first Committee in place shall be staggered to promote appropriate levels of continuing and new membership over the longer term.

To the extent possible, collective Committee membership should display varying degrees of employment experience at and institutional memory concerning CSU Stanislaus. Expertise in the area of information technology should characterize at least some members of the Committee. Committee membership should reflect campus diversity, broadly speaking.
Desired, though not strictly required, characteristics of individual Committee members should include possession of critical-thinking skills, a practical, generalist approach to problem solving, and leadership qualities independent of employment position. Members should be oriented toward collaboration and cooperation. Ability to access and understand information within and across divisions also is a desirable characteristic of members.

**Operations**

Committee meetings and actions shall be open and transparent and shall include regular updates to the campus community. The Committee shall maintain early and ongoing consultation with the vice presidents of the University’s various divisions. Prioritized projects shall not move forward without identification of stewards or “champions” of each project. Training, resources, and staff support for Committee activity will be allocated as appropriate.

At the close of five years of operation, a formal assessment of the Committee’s strengths, weaknesses, and overall effectiveness shall occur. A report of assessment results shall be made public, and public comment shall be invited. The campus community shall be asked to advise the President concerning continuation of the Committee.

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