

Illinois Wesleyan University
CUPP Report
December 2007

CUPP continues to study our committee/governance system with the goal of improving it. The council has asked committee chairs and convenors to respond to four questions: (1) how many members, including staff, faculty, students, and administrators, serve on these committees; (2) how often and for how long do the committees meet; (3) do the committees have published charges and, if so, what are they; and (4) how can faculty governance and committee cohesiveness be improved? In addition to soliciting this information, CUPP continues to consult with constituents and administrators to better understand the problems or challenges posed by our present committee and governance system. The time we spend now studying the issue is a good investment; it should place us in a position to recommend specific improvements.

Based on feedback received by the provost (most recently at an open forum on November 29), it appears that CUPP will be asked to continue to advise the administration on the reorganization of our administrative structure. From the faculty perspective, a consensus may be emerging that the new administrative structure should provide a means for faculty to better communicate (to the administration) their shared needs and opinions. The challenge going forward may be to design a structure that contains this improvement while at the same time preserving those aspects of the present (or proposed) structure that faculty, including those serving as supervisors, view favorably. Both projects – our study of committee structure and any administrative reorganization – have highlighted a shared faculty goal of better communication and perhaps stronger voice.

We have also heard several constituent issues in the past month, all of which are detailed in the minutes we have filed. The president visited CUPP last month to share budget information; we are in much better financial health, but a meaningful budget surplus appears at least a few years away and is largely tied to the success of a capital campaign. This year's (2007-08) budget allows for zero dollars in the category of an additional endowment draw (\$1.4 million last year), which is a significant accomplishment. But when coupled with an entering class that is about 20 students fewer than usual, the result is a focus on generating more revenue (on the development side) and on continuing to watch expenditures closely.

Finally, CUPP will miss Lynda Duke, who will be on sabbatical and who provided wise counsel and advice over the past two years, and is poised to welcome her replacement, Karen Schmidt.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Kearney