

Illinois Wesleyan University
CUPP Report
November 2007

CUPP's major endeavors remain: (1) advising the administration on a reorganization of the academic affairs administrative structure; and (2) determining how our committee system (and system of shared governance) can work more efficiently and effectively. As to the first, we met with the provost this month to discuss both CUPP's administrative structure report and some of the concerns raised during the last faculty meeting (e.g., how faculty advocacy can find a place in the new structure). Both CUPP's report and the provost's initial administrative reorganization are available on the faculty governance website, which is linked from the provost's web page. The provost continues to collect input on the administrative reorganization issue and will return to CUPP on November 16. One aspect of the proposed administrative reorganization – extending the term of the Associate Dean of Faculty from three to four years – has been met favorably both in CUPP and within constituent groups.

Since the last faculty meeting, CUPP has begun to discuss committee structure and cohesiveness on campus. We believe it is important to define the “problem” or challenges posed by our present committee and governance system before setting sail in search of solutions. Your CUPP representative likely will be seeking input from you; to date we have identified four possible problems: (1) committees, including task forces or ad hoc groups, may not be operating efficiently, either by not managing time well or by doing the work typically associated with other committees; (2) work on committees and, for that matter, service work in general, may not be rewarded or recognized appropriately; (3) the number of hours devoted to committee and service work is simply too much; and (4) the charges of some committees may be undefined, which contributes to the potential of committee overlap. Please give some thought to these issues so that we can understand the problem better and focus our attention (and, ultimately, our advice) in the right direction.

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 discuss the capital campaign and will return shortly to discuss next year's budget. Recaps of these meetings also appear in our minutes.