



Faculty Senate Meeting Notes  
November 17, 2021

I. Call to order

Larry Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Snow College Faculty Senate at 3:33 p.m., November 17, 2021. The Senate met face-to-face in the Noyes, Academy Room with Zoom video conferencing available.

II. Roll Call

Senate Members: Senate President Larry Smith, Senate Vice President Jed Rasmussen, Matt Gowans, Jacob Thomas, Weston Jamison, Alan Christensen, Dennis Schugk, Sandra Cox, David Fullmer, Adam Burningham, Faculty Association President Garth Sorenson, Senate Parliamentarian Erick Faatz

Others: Provost Melanie Jenkins, Assistant Provost Kade Parry

III. Opening and Informational Items

A. Welcome from L. Smith.

B. L. Smith mentioned that the Snow College Board of Trustees meeting did not overlap with issues for this meeting.

IV. Senate Business

A. Shared Governance Discussion Continued

1. There was a minimal agenda for this meeting with shared governance being the only agenda item.

2. L. Smith asked each Senate member to mention what he or she wanted to come from this meeting and these were listed on the whiteboard.

a. G. Sorenson ideally wanted an organizational structure for shared governance.

b. M. Gowans wanted clarification of the purpose of a Faculty Senate at Snow College.

c. W. Jamison wanted clarification of and solutions for the issues/problems/complaints that Senate subcommittees have with the Senate.

d. J. Rasmussen wanted to understand the roles of different parts of the College. Where is there overlap between the Senate and the Deans Council?

e. D. Schugk asked what power the Senate has to impact College decisions. "What teeth does the Senate have?"

f. S. Cox felt that the Senate should stand up for academic standards.

g. D. Fullmer hoped for a definition of shared governance: Why don't we already know? Maybe there is never a set definition. Things change over time. Committee strength ebbs and flows.

h. J. Thomas asked, where does the Faculty Senate fit in the organizational chart?

i. A. Christensen commented that there was already a long list. What is the role of each party in an organization at Snow College?

j. A. Burningham was experiencing audio/visual difficulties with the remote access system.

k. K. Parry asked, what are the lines between antagonism and cooperation, and collaboration vs. adversarial roles.

l. E. Faatz felt that all involved in the discussion needed to stick to the facts and all should feel free to challenge misrepresentation of facts.

m. L. Smith mentioned that M. Jenkins has been a very strong advocate for the faculty. He thanked her for all that she has done as a faculty member and as an administrator.

3. M. Jenkins hoped that we would all have a better understanding of shared governance.

a. What is the faculty role? Faculty **must** have a role in governance.

b. Self-assessment is healthy and a good practice. It should never be threatening to ask questions.

c. There are no bad ideas.

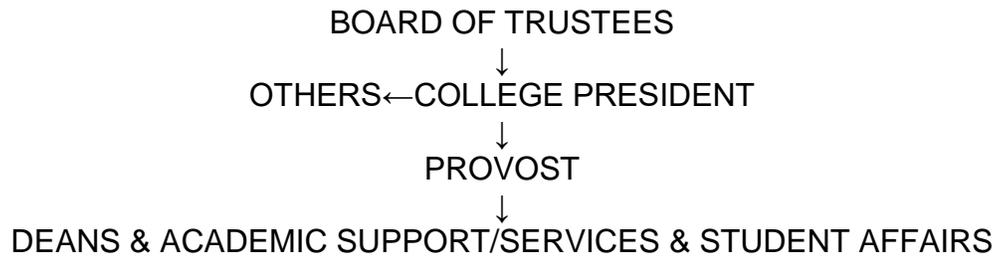
d. We must allow for open and honest conversations. We cannot take things personally and cannot attack others.

e. We need to look to the future.

f. What is ideal for Snow College? We needed to know what other institutions do, but Snow is unique. Snow can do what it wants.

g. Many parties involved in making decisions regarding educational institutions are not trained.

h. Provost Jenkins drew a flow chart on the whiteboard indicating the current organizational structure and possible permutations were discussed.



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USUALLY A STRONG LINE BETWEEN DEANS AND THE SENATE

i. Where does the senate belong at other institutions? It is not clear with great variability.

j. Deans have administrative duties that impact many areas of the institution.

k. Professional deans might draw an even stronger line between the Senate and deans.

l. Only in rare circumstances could administration not follow recommendations from the Faculty Senate.

m. There are different types of senates over time: a fully functioning senate, an influential senate, a ceremonial senate, or a subverted senate.

n. The Advancement and Tenure Committee is an example of a committee that is working well with collaboration between deans, chairs, FET members, and the provost when there are problems.

o. We might think about shared leadership rather than shared governance.

p. Faculty members should always be heard. The dean reorganization opportunity has passed. With professional deans there might not be as good cooperation. Do we need a subcommittee to work on shared leadership? There needs to be better communication between the various entities in all directions. There should be more interaction between the Senate and the Deans Council.

q. Some institutions of higher education are moving toward corporate models. We need to find a model to preserve faculty input. It seems that the Snow College Board of Trustees are not aware of the Snow College Senate situation. We need to find what is best for Snow.

r. It was decided that the governance discussion should continue January 2022. A meeting will be scheduled with the Senate, deans, and provost.

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Erick Faatz  
Revised 1/24/2022  
Final minutes approved 1/26/2022