**Report from Senate Analyst**

**Survey on Communication**

**March 2013**

This survey was designed to gain feedback from faculty about how faculty governance might communicate with the faculty better and was distributed via Moodle.

112 faculty took this survey.

**Summary of Results:**

**1. Check all ways you prefer to receive information:**

Top four answers:

Email = 35% 102 responses

Listserv digest 14% 40 responses

Newsletter – digital 13% 37 responses

Person to Person contact 13% 37 responses

**2. Choose how you like to receive/access information:**

Both push and pull work for me – 41% 41 responses

I like information pushed out to me 36% 36 responses

**3. Would you like to be able to choose relevant topics to learn about within faculty governance?**

Yes = 83% 73 responses

No = 17% 15 responses

**4. Choose from topics that might appeal to you:**

Top four answers:

Resolutions passed by the Senate 13% 73 responses

General topics of discussion in faculty governance 13% 71 responses

Reports given by the Provost 12% 65 responses

Reports given by the President 11% 62 responses

Least interest in minutes of meetings: 6% 34 responses

Other responses to this question:

Simple breakdown of issues

Adjunct issues

General, big picture

Synopsis issues and outcomes

Curriculum

Restore Curriculum guide

**Comment about how faculty governance might improve communication. All comments sorted into these categories.**

**Comments that think we are doing fine:**

* just keep the emails coming--works well from my standpoint
* fine the way it is
* They are doing a fine job. By the way, I have no idea what pushed out to be or pull it out means in question 3.
* Margie Purser is doing a much better job than previous faculty chairs.
* I think communication is already quite good.
* the listserv postings are what I currently find most helpful; not sure how to improve on that
* I think it's well done now.
* Communication is not so bad

**Ideas related to consolidating information:**

* Representative reports. There are none now
* a monthly e-mail about the highlights of academic issues affecting our work and students
* A short digest with summaries of news and their links to the fuller report/minutes. Optimize our time to be informed, as we are often either going to scan or delete it and move on.
* Have representatives do their job of communicating back to their constituents
* Simple breakdown of issues + minutes + general topic of conversation. NOT whole text of resolutions passed.
* centralize information
* distribution of agenda and meeting summaries (not minutes) of actions taken and actions proposed
* How about an electronic Senate newsletter. I think we need a concise format - something that stands out from the massive number of e-mails I receive every day.
* Focus on a concise, semester-ly newsletter that highlights big decisions and questions
* Provide information to the faculty in two forms a "big picture" overview and some supplementary information for those who want to see the all "minor details".
* In an ideal world, a regular pithy summary (easier to read than minutes) of campus and statewide senate meetings would be nice. But who would write that?

**Specific suggestions:**

* for the categories in #5 (*choosing topics*), it might be useful to have a page on the website, where you could find each of those items.
* Use Moodle in conjunction with Senate Web Site
* regular reporting out by representatives to their constituencies
* Permit one to "unsubscribe" from SenateTalk and use other media noted above. (*this is possible already*)
* Send info to "all faculty," not just those who subscribe to Senate Talk
* make it so listserv digest text does not contain annoying ?s instead of " and other formatting. Maybe use rich text formatted digests. It's not that big a deal.
* Have faculty forums from time to time in late afternoon
* Email information to all faculty, not simply those on Senate-talk
* Improve our dismal SSU website's search capacities.
* try to get all faculty to sign up to list-serve and announcing sign-up at start of each semester--adjuncts too; send Senate-talk to all members of any Senate committees
* Two senate list serves. One could be status quo - long, rambling etc. The other could deal with governance focused issues. (*already done*)
* Use senate-l for more than the same three people arguing with each other.
* more information via senate-talk
* Contacting faculty via email when serious issues are discussed
* I'm an outsider SSP: do School reps make reports to their faculty? Seems like they should give a quick e-mail encapsulation of what happened at each Senate meeting.
* If there is a link that provides summarized info, I'm not aware of it. Something like that would be helpful.
* questionnaires like this
* Maybe an educational campaign to help those who haven't been participating or attending to issues understand how faculty governance is relevant to them.
* Searchable website interface

**More general comments:**

* Change the teaching schedule. No classes are held at 12-1 pm on MW and 12-2 pm on TTH.
* Senators probably need to push out more info to their schools, but faculty members have to want to pay attention. I'm not sure they do.
* Somehow create the time we need to pay attention to these issues. Time is, for me, the essential barrier.
* i like your idea to allow customization/personalization
* I think faculty need to be more engaged, not the other way around.
* I do not have the answer but I find meeting of faculty and chairs to have an agenda items has worked
* too many emails received from same body decrease the interest and time to read them all
* having everyone involved, input and communicate that to everyone else

**Not sure:**

* not sure?
* I am not sure.
* No idea at this time