

**AGENDA**

1. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
2. J-Term/Calendar Discussion
3. Faculty Handbook

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

The faculty senate will have an opportunity to meet with consultants from the strategic planning committee at 11AM. Later in the day, there will be meetings for assistant professors (1:30) and associate and full professors (2:45).

**J-TERM/CALENDAR DISCUSSION**

Last meeting, we were left with a bit of dilemma. The faculty senate is interested in an incremental approach, and the provost is interested in an “all or nothing” approach. The question is two-pronged:

- 1) Are we presenting something to the faculty, or
- 2) Are we tasked with putting together a report for the provost

Question: Can we do what we want and take it to the faculty?

Discussion: We should report to the provost and then take it to the faculty because it should be the faculty’s decision. If the faculty votes incremental, then the provost should listen to that.

A white paper approach may be in order: Present the pros and cons to the faculty as opposed to trying to sell a set in stone approach.

Well, we’ve had some ability to shape our curriculum. Why don’t we do something similar? Make a proposal of what we’d like to do, and let the administration determine if it’s doable.

There’s some disagreement to this idea because a) we need input from other faculty members and b) the provost seems to want something very different than what we’ve preliminarily agreed to – it sounds like he wants participation in J-Term to be mandatory... We need to know who has the power to implement this idea... Can we be steamrolled once this gets in place?

Basically, is this going to be treated as mandatory? As similar to summer school? As similar to a tutorial? There’s so much wiggle room that we have no certainty about the proposal.

Question: This begs the question of what do you want to move forward with? Have the provost rubberstamp our proposal? Or, do nothing until we hear word from the strategic planning committee? Or, do what we want to do with J-Term without input from the provost? Or, do we want to do a combination of our proposal and the provosts?  
How about we present pros and cons? Tell the provost that because the college is in transition we should forward these pros and cons to the strategic planning committee.

Discussion: The calendar currently has room for J-Term (the way we're practicing it now). Why don't we say keep doing what we're doing with J-Term and wait until we hear from the strategic planning committee.

So, part of that would mean that we're proposing the calendar that we've developed for the academic year with no change to J-Term yet. So, change the calendar first.

Our best option may be to play our hand—here's the calendar we want to accommodate the current J-Term—and then see what hand the provost plays.

What if we added as part of our deliberation... If the calendar changes this much, could we ask each department to tell us what they would do to provide for J-Term?

I don't know it seems that J-Term really needs to be part of the strategic plan. Let it develop organically from that.

What if the strategic planning committee sees the calendar change as welcoming J-Term?

The faculty can reject aspects of the strategic plan.

Could a mandatory J-Term be put in place without a faculty vote?

The faculty could create all sorts of havoc if something like that happened.

It still seems like a voluntary recommendation to the provost is the best idea to avoid creating bad feelings.

### **A MOVE TO A CONSENSUS**

In the next couple of weeks, Gary Freeze should forward the proposal to the Provost. We need a report attached to the calendar that states here's what we think, why we've decided on that way of thinking, and make our recommendation.

Now, what are we recommending?

A First Draft of the Consensus: The consensus is that we report the newly-designed calendar to the provost and ask that it be brought before the faculty while leaving J-Term as is until we hear from the strategic planning group.

Discussion: Do you want to include in this that the senate would like to discuss faculty compensation, department staffing needs, and promised faculty development funds?

Let's not bring up the department chairs, yet, because it opens up to many unappealing consequences.

Suggestion: Our pro and con list of J-Term should go to the strategic planning committee.

Discussion: J-Term really and truly could become the outlet for the experiences aspect of the new curriculum.

**The Motion:** We report the newly-designed calendar to the provost and ask that it be brought before the faculty while leaving J-Term as is until we hear from the strategic planning group.

**Motion Seconded**

**Motion Passes**

### **FACULTY HANDBOOK**

Gordon Grant has volunteered to the faculty handbook editor. If you have thoughts on that, please share them with Gary Freeze. There is a handbook committee, but it hasn't met in twelve years. Eventually, we do need a new editor but it's not pressing.

Dr. Freeze will provide the senate with an electronic copy of the newest version of the faculty handbook.