



TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty

FROM: Dr. Maggie DiVita  
Chair, Faculty Senate Planning Committee

DATE: May 15, 2017

RE: Dissolving Planning Committee from the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

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The updated Planning Committee has been tasked with the following charges:

1. To consider and recommend to the Senate matters related to current academic plans, planning and other such matters designated to it by the Senate, the Steering Committee of the Senate or the chair of the Senate on behalf of the faculty.
2. To determine the procedure whereby faculty and student input is obtained regarding the review and assessment of strategic plans and indicators of institutional effectiveness. The procedure developed shall be subject to approval by the Senate and to mandatory review every three years.
3. To provide the Senate with a summary of input from faculty and students regarding strategic plans.
4. To assist with the alignment of program, department, school and unit plans with the college strategic plan.
5. To serve as an advocate for planning across campus.
6. To serve as a liaison between the administration and the Senate concerning all planning that may affect the campus community.

To those charges, beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, and ending in the 2016-2017 academic year, the Planning Committee completed a survey of all faculty and professional departments seeking input from all on the purposes of the Faculty Senate. The response rate was relatively low, less than 40%. Those results have been shared with the Steering Committee, the Faculty Senate, and were the topic of an Open Meeting of the Faculty Senate, with few attendees. In addition, the results of this survey did not yield any purposeful strategic plans. It seems the general purpose of planning and strategic plans are handled at the administrative level, with the Planning Committee having little power to make any changes.

Further, faculty input that we have solicited regarding charges 2 and 3 has only yielded issues of which the Faculty Senate is already aware (e.g. lack of engagement with Senate activity among faculty in general); the Planning Committee doesn't have the access or authority to do anything meaningful regarding charges 4 or 6; charge 1, to communicate with Faculty about the actions of the rest of the Senate and its committees, seems like the kind of thing the Senate and its other committees would normally do, on their own, as part of their normal day-to-day activities, much more effectively and specifically than the Planning Committee may as a separate disconnected entity; it isn't clear what charge 5 means.

In conclusion, the Planning Committee has voted unanimously to propose that this committee is no longer purposeful, and therefore should be dissolved by the full Faculty Senate.