

# REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE BUDGET & PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 14, 2018

The Faculty Senate Budget & Planning Committee met November 1, 2018 to discuss the proposed Leeward Community College Shared Governance Policy (L1.201).

In the past year and a half with a change in administrators there has been progress in allowing the Faculty Senate more involvement in shared governance and the budgeting process. The proposed shared governance policy (L1.201) would give the Faculty Senate the right to provide input on the budget and it would require administration to respond with their reasons for any requests that are rejected. However, Faculty Senate's role could change with another change of administrators. Clarification of the Faculty Senate's role has been sought from the BOR Secretary and the Faculty Senate Budget & Planning Committee is waiting for a response.

The proposed shared governance policy is a marked improvement over practices prior to last year. The Leeward Faculty Senate struggled for over four years to have its voice heard on matters relating to budget planning and implementation, specifically funding for anti-plagiarism software (Turnitin.com). The root cause of this disagreement was a breakdown in shared governance. The history of this dispute is outlined in the May 2, 2018 Final Report of the Faculty Senate Budget & Planning Committee.

There are several constraints on any Leeward CC shared governance policy. One is the 2017-2021 UHPA contract, on pp. 108-110–R-20, Roles and Consultation Protocols Involving UH Administration, UH Professional Assembly, and UH Faculty Senates. This needs to be referenced in the shared government policy.

## General Statement

University of Hawaii Board of Regents Policy RP 1.210 recognizes the critical role played by faculty in the academic governance of the University, and authorizes the establishment of Faculty Senates to “advise the administration (primarily at the campus and unit level) on matters impacting and /or relating to the development and maintenance of academic policy and standards to the end that quality education is provided, preserved, and improved.”

## PART I: Faculty Senates or other Shared Governance Entities

7) Review of the University and/or campus mission, strategic planning directions, goals, assessments, and or related budget priorities. This responsibility may be exercised through campus committees that may include other shared governance entities.

Another constraint is BOR policy pertaining to the roles of Faculty Senates. The committee felt that the shared governing bodies recognized by the Board of Regents (BOR) should be listed in the shared governance policy.

Faculty Senate's request to fund Turnitin.com would certainly come within the parameters of academic policy outlined in BOR policy.

## **BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY CHAPTER 1**

Section 1-10: Policy on Faculty Involvement in Academic Decision-Making and Academic Policy Development.

b. Faculty Involvement in Academic Decision-Making and Academic Policy Development

It is the policy of the University to maintain and strengthen organized and systematic involvement by faculty in academic decision-making and policy development.

The following further describes details of this policy.

1. Together with and subject to the approval of its chancellor, each campus faculty may:
  - a. determine its own organization consistent with this policy and any other applicable University and/or Board policies, bylaws, and procedures; and
  - b. adopt its own bylaws and rules of procedure for exercising the role and performing the duties outlined in this policy. Once such organization or organizations and charters are approved, the pattern of participation in campus and University matters will be realized in accordance with the charters.
2. The duly authorized organization specified by each charter shall have the responsibility to speak for the faculty on academic policy matters such as:
  - b. budget planning and implementation
5. The role of the faculty as set forth herein shall not be delegated to any other entity by the faculty organization established pursuant to this policy.

BOR policy clearly gives Faculty Senates a role in budgeting, however, in the case of Turnitin.com administration responded that they didn't interpret BOR policy that way. The Faculty Senate understood that their role was only advisory, all the Senate asked was that administration respond to the Senate's concerns. Administration refused to do so, insisting that Faculty Senate had no role in budgeting, that that role belonged to Campus Council. The BOR authorized the creation of Faculty Senates. Campus Council is a campus creation. Campus Council is tightly controlled by administration, the majority of the members are appointed by administration and administration is present at every meeting. Faculty Senate has representation on Campus Council, but it is only allowed two votes out of 18. The end result is that Faculty Senate concerns on the budget got routed to Campus Council where they were buried. The result was a dramatic loss in transparency and accountability.

Another concern with the proposed shared governance policy was the fifth paragraph under the heading Background on the first page:

From this AIC report, the ad hoc committee learned that the impetus for drafting and promulgating L1.201 arose from observations gathered by ACCJC's visiting team during the College's self-study process (2000.) The report specifically noted, "Some on the Faculty Senate view their roles as guardian of academic issues to include personnel, budget and planning decisions. This view is in conflict with the representational organization of the Campus Council." Thus, the visiting team recommended that Leeward "define the roles of all constituencies in governance," which resulted in the drafting and adoption of L1.201.

The statement about the Faculty Senate is needlessly antagonistic. The wording in a document on *shared governance* should be *collegial*. This quote is taken out of context and misinterpreted. The intent was to give other groups on campus a voice in planning and budgeting besides the Faculty Senate. Leeward CC needs more opportunities for transparency and accountability, not less. It was not meant to take away Faculty Senate's role in planning and budgeting, especially in light of principle #8 of the Principles of Shared Governance that followed the quote in the 2003 document:

8. The Campus Council and Faculty Senate's recommendations on budgetary priorities should be given heavy weight in administrative decisions relating to those matters.

The Faculty Senate's dispute with administration over the role of the Senate in the budgeting process was due to a breakdown in shared governance. The result was a dramatic decrease in transparency and accountability for the college. As both Faculty Senate and administration move forward, it is essential to get the shared governance policy right.