

## Rules Committee Report

April 6, 2009

The Rules Committee of the Senate met March 3, 17, 24, and 31 to discuss and draft a motion to create a new Senate standing committee to deal with academic concerns.

In the course of our deliberations the question of whether this committee should deal with the issues of academic freedom and shared governance was raised. Intensive discussions were held at meetings and via e-mail. One idea proposed was that a separate committee should be established to deal solely with academic freedom. Another idea suggested was that academic freedom and shared governance would logically come under the purview of the Rights and Responsibilities Committee. With this latter idea in mind, Senator Lynnette Noblitt, Chair of Rights and Responsibilities Committee, was invited to attend a couple of our meetings and to share her insights, which she graciously did.

At this point the consensus of the Rules Committee is that academic freedom should indeed be addressed by a senate committee, either by Rights and Responsibilities if they chose to add this to their duties, or by a new committee on academic freedom.

Meanwhile, the Rules Committee has drafted a motion to establish a Committee on Academic Quality which would deal with any academic matters that have an impact on teaching and learning. We expect to bring this motion to the May meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Nancy McKenney, Chair  
Michelle Gerken  
Kristen Kean  
Jane Rainey  
Tom Reed