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Shared Academic Governance : A Historical Perspective

Domenick J Pinto

A veteran of 45 years at Sacred Heart University, I have served on the University Senate from 1986-2004 and, when the university disbanded the senate in 2004 in favor of the University Academic Assembly (UAA) , I have served on various committees, was instrumental in developing the by-laws for the governance body and am currently president of the UAA for the third time. I have served as VP three times and served as recorder for one year.

My workshop will first give a historical perspective as to the nature of how the university's senate operated and provide the rationale as to why and how the UAA evolved as a replacement for the senate.

The major differences between the two are as follows:

- 1. The senate consisted of elected senators from each department who voted on various issues including but not limited to faculty affairs, faculty handbook, new academic programs, academic integrity, student affairs, and benefits and compensation. The faculty at large did NOT vote. Voting was submitted to the university as a recommendation.**
- 2. The UAA consists of a UAA Council which consists of members voted on from each college PLUS an UAA Assembly which consists of ALL FT faculty. When a proposal comes to the Council a vote is taken and then the entire assembly also votes separately, and both are reported to the university president as a recommendation. The committees in the UAA are similar to those that were in the senate.**

The second part of the workshop will allow participants to share experiences on academic governance and faculty leadership from their respective universities as well as developing ideas on how they, as academic chairs, directors, deans and provosts might make the process more collegial and effective.

The third part of the workshop will underscore the importance of faculty leadership in the governance process. I am attaching a powerpoint which outlines our system here at Sacred Heart University.