

## Meeting Minutes

Committee: BFC (CREM Policy Committee)

Date: March 24, 2025

Attendees: Alex, Shu, Sena, Amanda, Allen

Primary Topic: CREM Committee Future, Shared Governance, and Faculty Role in Academic Reorganization

### 1. Overview of Policy Types and Committee Jurisdiction

- Alex articulates belief that scope of shared governance in narrower range of matters.
- identified three policy categories:
  - Administrative policies (outside faculty purview)
  - Purely academic policies (faculty-led)
  - Hybrid policies (e.g., academic reorganizations, CREM cases)
  - emphasized importance of defining what constitutes an academic restructuring and determining a clear role for faculty to play in such cases.

### 2. Role and Function of the CREM Committee

- Shu: CREM should advocate for academic programs under threat, helping them articulate their value to administrators.
- Alex: Historically, CREM had input even in reorganizations. The current focus should narrow to reductions/eliminations impacting faculty and graduate students, not administrative matters like staff positions or course scheduling.
- Shu and Sena: The committee must protect academic integrity, even amid budget pressures. Programs should be preserved in essence, even if efficiency requires structural change.

### 3. Tone and Strategy Toward Administration

- All agreed: the committee should aim to be collaborative, not obstructionist.
- Shu: Committee must assert shared governance and be respected for responsible, academic-focused input.
- All agreed: the CREM Committee should continue with revised responsibilities as a resource to both administration and affected units.

### 4. End-of-Year Deliverable

- Amanda: Urged group to produce a clear, end-of-year document outlining current questions, intentions, or even a policy draft.
- Alex suggested maintaining the current committee membership into fall 2025 to preserve continuity.

## 5. Action Steps Toward Fall Planning

- Alex recommended Sena contact Bill Ramos and Danielle about retaining the current committee for the fall.
- Committee discussed submitting a brief report to the BFC Executive Committee, including:
  - The role CREM should play
  - What “academic program” should be defined as
  - Suggestions for refining the committee’s mission
  - Requests for administrative guidance

## 6. Scope Clarification and Structural Concerns

- Amanda and Shu raised the issue of programs like IFS and CRES being excluded from CREM oversight, despite causing significant faculty concern.
- Alex acknowledged previous ideas about replacing CREM with administration generated ad hoc task forces seem to no longer be realistic given administration’s current approach to governance

## 7. Consensus on CREM’s Continued Need

- All agreed that the CREM Committee should remain a standing BFC committee.
- Shu and Allen highlighted the importance of CREM as an intermediary to ensure faculty and student interests are represented during reorganizations.
- Alex: CREM should gather input from faculty/students, produce summaries, and inform the administration, even if the final decision lies elsewhere.

## 8. Communication Channels and Suggestions

- Sena and Shu: Recommended raising the issue with the BFC Executive Committee before contacting any specific administrators.
- Alex: Supported this as a first step; administrators like Rick van Kooten and Dave Daleke could be brought in later if needed.

## 9. Immediate Tasks & Timeline

- Committee Actions Before End of Semester:
  1. Allen to draft detailed meeting summary.
  2. All members to add specific concerns/questions.
  3. Sena to compile a formal report from the collective input.
  4. Report to be shared with Danielle and Bill Ramos, requesting the committee remain intact.
  5. Plan to present to the BFC Executive Committee early in the Fall 2025 semester.
- Shu and Amanda: Emphasized that the report should show the committee's work over the course of the year and outline next steps to make our work evident and concrete.

## 10. Final Notes

- Next Meeting: One more meeting in April 2025 (date TBD)
- Main Agenda for Next Meeting:
  - Review and refine the draft report
  - Finalize questions to Executive Committee
  - Set up groundwork for Fall presentation