A. Major issues addressed by the committee during the 2015–16 year

1. Several members of the committee (Brian Cawley, Dana Hebreard and Julie Yonker) worked on a grant proposal to NetVUE for a Vocation Exploration Renewal grant. The grant, “Who are you? Translating Self-Understanding into Vocation via the Advisor” was funded for $25,000. The purpose of the grant is to develop workshops and training resources that equip faculty and staff serving as academic advisors and/or career coaches to help students connect the dots between self-understanding and vocation. The grant goals are several:
   - Identify best practices associated with vocational advising/coaching with emerging adults
   - Deepen faculty and staff advisors’ understanding and appreciation of the social and cognitive development of emerging adults
   - Create the capacity of faculty and staff advisors to provide their advisees individualized assessment interpretation and feedback that promotes more effective vocational discernment
   - Equip advisors to deliver a higher quality and more consistent experience when working with students on vocational exploration

2. Another major issue was the formal committee request for a professional pre-health advisor. Dana Hebreard and Julie Yonker met with the Provost and Academic Deans as part of the proposal process and were encouraged to submit a proposal to the Provost. The summary statement of the proposal is as follows:
   The purpose of this memo is to request permission to hire a 0.80 FTE staff person to meet the critical needs of our pre-health students and pre-health faculty advisors.
   The current Calvin model of basic pre-health advising coverage entails four “official” and three “unofficial” faculty members advising 400 students per year (3-year average) in eight different pre-health programs in addition to their discipline specific advisees. Faculty report that in total they spend a minimum of 892 hours (22.3 work weeks total) on pre-health advising. The current Calvin pre-health advising model is not allowing these faculty members to thrive in their academic work nor is it providing students with the depth of mentoring required in these competitive programs. This memo follows a Pre-Health Professions proposal that was brought to the Deans and Provost in summer 2013, and a summer 2015 meeting with the Deans and Provost. The Academic Advising Committee requests permission to move ahead on this staffing initiative, with the goal to fill the position in early summer 2016.
   As of the writing of this Academic Advising Year-End Report, we are still awaiting word about the potential for this position being approved by Cabinet.

3. We are excited and proud that Dana Hebreard won the Michigan Academic Advising Association award for Outstanding Advising Administrator!!! Dana received the award at the MIACADA conference in May. http://miacada.org/2016Conference/ Additionally, Dana’s Information Table at the National Advising Conference won the award for the best information table. We are thankful and blessed that Dana works so hard on behalf of our students and their advisors at Calvin College. She is a blessing to our committee and the college!
   - As a committee, we participated in an Advising at Calvin SWOT as part of the Student Academic Services Office evaluation.
   - We met with Todd Dornbos to discuss retention and first year students and the role advisors for these students.
   - We conducted a Lunch and Learn in April, with a focus on First Year Students. Missy Wondergem, First Year Business Student Advisor, contributed helpful information to the discussion.

B. Actions brought before Faculty Senate

None
C. Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the committee initiated or implemented
   1. The Committee on Governance made some minor changes to the Academic Advising Committee Mandate. The Academic Advising committee discussed and approved these minor changes.
   2. NetVUE grant award (discussed above).
   3. Pre-Health Advisor proposal (discussed above).

D. Issues that will continue to be before the committee next year.
   1. We will continue discussing the issue of first year advising and should the business department model be extended to other disciplines within the college.
   2. We will continue to examine pre-Health advising and work with the administration to ascertain if a proper professional advisor position can be created.
   3. In conjunction with the NetVUE grant, we will offer jobZology workshops for advisors and career coaches. We hope to present these workshop opportunities at the Calvin Fall Conference.