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2004-10-14 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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APPROVED

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
DAYTON, OHIO

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

October 14, 2004 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. in St. Mary's 113B

PRESIDING: John Rapp

SENATORS PRESENT: Dandaneau, Eloe, Gauder, Gerla, Pestello, Rapp, Saliba, Yungblut

1. Opening Prayer: J. Rapp said a prayer from the *Marianist Family Prayer Book*.
2. Roll Call:
3. Approval of ECAS Minutes for September 30, 2004: The September 30, 2004 minutes were approved as amended.
4. Announcements:
 - a. S. Dandaneau reminded everyone that Father Heft's annual lecture will be held on Friday, October 15 at 4:00 p.m.
5. Old Business:
 - o Standing Committee Reports:
 - Academic Policies Committee (APC)*: D. Biers was not present but J. Rapp said the assistant deans have approved the walking requirements and thinks it will come to the ECAS and go on the Senate agenda in October.
 - Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)*: H. Gerla said the committee reviewed the BRIT issue, and they could not recommend it. He presented their findings to the ECAS in a detailed memo. J. Rapp will send this to Ron Katsuyama, Patsy Bernal-Olson and Lynnette Heard with the committee's concerns. F. Pestello suggested that J. Rapp, as the President of the ECAS, inform Lynnette Heard to share the review with the President's Council. A remark was made that the students do not want to go to the UD police because they do not feel comfortable, and they do not have a clear knowledge of where they need to go. J. Rapp suggested that we look into it and have responses from students. We need to look at changing the students' feelings on the UD campus police.
 - H. Gerla stated that Joe Untener received the revisions on the maternity policy, and it will be discussed in a meeting tomorrow. It was mentioned that it might go on the October Academic Senate agenda.
 - Student Academic Policies Committee (SAPC)*: N. Buchino was not present.

Calendar Committee: Friday issue—S. Dandaneau said Dr. Donnelly provided information on alcohol. The juniors and seniors plan their schedules so they will not have classes on Friday and this contributes to partying on Thursday. Friday is not taken very seriously as an academic day. The committee looked at the Syracuse model. Although the Syracuse plan was rejected, they did institute a calendar change but not what was originally presented. A lot of other schools are doing this also. Everyone is affected and it affects the patterns of behavior. A concern was expressed about how difficult it would be to make such a change. UD is not considered to be a high pressure academic environment. If we change the calendar, we could be making a different institution. It was suggested to have a survey to determine what other colleges are doing. Once the survey is done, choose a few that we like and talk to administrators and students at key campuses. It was suggested to start having discussions, collecting data, sending teams to schools and pick up information that would send a message that we are serious about instituting this. A suggestion was made that the meeting time could be changed from Friday to Monday, but this would provide problems with athletics, marching band and graduate school. Retention is another issue to consider. S. Dandaneau proposed investigating models and doing the survey. It was noted that going ahead with the survey may get feedback from people that can offer alternatives or viable suggestions. It was suggested that Joe Untener lead a team. S. Dandaneau will oversee data gathering and talk to Joe Untener.

- *Vision documents—next steps* – F. Pestello said the responses from the open and scheduled sessions will be posted to the web. He wants to address the members of the Academic Senate and explain the document and answer their questions although he cannot attend the October 29 meeting. At the November Senate meeting, the financial information will be discussed. It was stated that there is a need to start working on potential objectives to meet the goals. It was felt that the Senate should reconsider the matter, possibly outside the Academic Senate meeting at an open meeting or town hall meeting. They were not comfortable with the document and it was felt that the Senate position is not a positive one. There was a definite lack of communication and the discussion was not framed in the proper tones. This is about the future and where we see the University going. The feeling is that the document should not be wordsmithed. It was mentioned that this is a different process, and there are a lot of new senators that do not understand it. J. Rapp will get a draft together and before it goes out, it will be sent to the ECAS for comment and framework.
- *Alcohol awareness—Scott Markland document sent earlier* – It was felt that although there was some merit, the document was not very helpful. It was suggested that it could be used to build on to move to other initiatives. It was noted that none of those are structural changes and puts a lot of responsibility on the faculty. It was suggested that a system approach is needed. It is a very serious problem and the feeling was that this will not

- make a significant difference. There is a need for a University task force to come up with suggestions, initiatives and to set goals. J. Rapp will have a conversation with Pat Donnelly and tell him that it is helpful but needs some fine-tuning.
- *Classroom issues—next steps* – J. Rapp sent a note to Deb Bickford about what is going on. The timeline is still being established. Joe Untener is putting together a group to look at the classroom issue. L. Yungblut is the only non-administrator, teaching faculty member on this committee. They will be looking at what is happening in the fall when Miriam is taken offline. It was suggested that Joe Untener should have a department chair on the committee, someone that schedules 70-90 classrooms for large sections. J. Rapp said he will contact Joe and inform him of this. P. Eloie volunteered to serve on the committee.
 - *Bells* – P. Eloie stated that the Science faculty would prefer to have the bells. J. Rapp said the Provost's Council approved turning off the bells and if the ECAS wanted to have the bells turned back on, they would have to go back to the Provost's Council. It was determined that the decision was made for good reasons and the ECAS will not pursue this issue. J. Rapp asked P. Eloie to pass this information on to the concerned parties.
6. New Business:
- *Request to reconsider evening class schedule* – J. Rapp asked about reconsidering evening class schedule but it needs to be discussed with N. Buchino.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Wilson