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2004-11-11 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

November 11, 2004 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. in St. Mary's 113B

PRESIDING: John Rapp

SENATORS PRESENT: Biers, Buchino, Dandaneau, Eloie, Gauder, Gerla, Hallinan, Pestello, Rapp, Saliba, Yungblut

1. Opening Prayer: J. Rapp said a special prayer he wrote in observance of Veteran's Day.
2. Roll Call:
3. Approval of ECAS Minutes for October 28, 2004: The October 28, 2004 minutes were approved as amended.
4. Announcements:
 - a. Electronic voting is taking place now. It was brought up that next year a statement needs to be included that you are able to peruse the list, close the window and come back to it later and vote. Voting is not final until the "submit" button is pushed. Although electronic voting is looked at as a positive move, some faculty were worried about security of the process. There needs to be a guarantee that the names of the voters will not be shared and the information will be destroyed after the results.
 - b. The purpose of the November 18 meeting will be to discuss the December 3 Academic Senate meeting. H. Gerla's item and S. Dandaneau's items might be put on the agenda in addition to F. Pestello discussing the Vision document.
5. Old Business:
 - o Standing Committee Reports:
 - Academic Policies Committee (APC)*: D. Biers stated that Tom Westendorf said it is crucial for the Provost's Council to act on the commencement proposal that was passed because it is planned for May 2005 implementation. F. Pestello said it will be on the agenda for the next Provost's Council.
 - Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)*: H. Gerla said the committee met last week and the subject was the proper use of student evaluations in evaluating faculty. A document is being produced on best practices to be used in promotion, merit and tenure pay. A consensus was received and the University's handbook will be amended and an independent University policy will be created which would bar the predominant use of student evaluations that pertain to promotion, merit or tenure. In the last ten years, higher grades have been found to correlate with higher student evaluation of faculty. No problem was found in determining that this

should not be done. If the committee approves the document, it can be presented at the December Academic Senate meeting. F. Pestello stated that we must determine what can be used in addition to this. L. Yungblut said that Steve Wilhoit is working on alternative means of evaluating good teaching besides using student evaluations.

Student Academic Policies Committee (SAPC): N. Buchino said the students, in addition to some faculty, did not understand the BRIT policy and is too confusing to read through. She suggested that a pamphlet or brochure be used for students. J. Rapp said the BRIT committee is trying to put together some sort of card for students. Evening class times were discussed with two options: ten minutes or fifteen minutes. It appears the committee will go with the ten minute option. N. Buchino was advised that she needs to bring a proposal to the ECAS because they set the agenda for the Academic Senate meetings.

Calendar Committee: S. Dandaneau said a proposal is being considered for the December Senate meeting. The proposal will suggest to the Provost's Council three immediately implementable changes in the calendar: 1) Move the Friday common meeting time from 3:00-4:15 to Monday at the same time; 2) Suggest an increase in the number of courses that meeting at 8:00 a.m.; 3) Enforce a policy of where a percentage of required courses meet on Friday. It was suggested to vote separately on the three issues.

6. New Business:

- *Email Regarding Faculty Engagement* – J. Rapp shared an email that was sent to him with three points:

1) "If the University is serious about developing diversity and leadership on this campus, then it is important that public searches (internal or external) be held for any position that becomes available."

Discussion: It is felt among some faculty that they would be more engaged if they knew what was going on. Appointments are being made without informing people ahead of time and giving them a chance to apply for the position. The recent appointments in the College were mentioned. It was stated that Dean Morton did make necessary consultations before making the appointments. It was mentioned that there are new deans and they will appoint their staff which should be at their discretion. F. Pestello stated that if a dean or vice president is going to be hired, it will be an open search with significant faculty participation. In the case of a dean, a faculty member leads the search. When an associate dean is hired, it must be someone that the dean is comfortable delegating authority to and can serve to represent them and speak for them in certain areas. With the new team of deans, they have felt the need to move quickly to get a team in place in order to meet the obligations they are facing. They have been justified in their decisions and have good reason for acting quickly. The appointments across the board have been good ones.

2) "As strong as technology is on this campus, I believe communication can still be improved by our administration."

Discussion: F. Pestello said he would be happy to share this information with the community and asked J. Rapp to bring this item up at the next Provost's Council.

3) "The Provost's Office, and/or perhaps the Senate, needs to develop a faculty advisory committee for international strategy and initiatives on this campus."

Discussion: F. Pestello stated that historically, the Center for International Programs has not working closely with the faculty. Deb Bickford is currently looking at various models. Tom Skill's former associate provost position will be turned into an associate provost position for international education. This will enable international education to have visibility on campus and have the support it needs. It will move us more aggressively in the direction that we need to go. There will be a national search that will have substantial faculty representation, and internal candidates will be considered.

It was decided that none of these points required referral to a committee of the Senate at this point.

- *November 12 Faculty/Senate meeting:* N. Buchino stated that she and several student Senators would not be able to attend the meeting. It was stated that their presence was not critical but they might want to review the slides for their response to the proposals. F. Pestello stated that the plan is to start with Dan Curran to talk five-ten minutes about the overall state of the University's financial condition, which is very strong, and a little bit about the building projects, in terms of plans and how they will be financed. Tom Burkhardt will talk about fifteen minutes to highlight a few key budget issues. F. Pestello will talk five-ten minutes about salaries. Joe Untener is putting together the annual faculty salary report and some of the data will be presented. Joe will complete the report by Monday and everyone will have a full report by the ELC on Tuesday. J. Rapp said he would introduce this, indicate who will be speaking, about how long they will speak, and the floor will be open for questions following.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Wilson