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2005-02-07 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

February 7, 2005 – 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in St. Mary's 113B

PRESIDING: David Biers

SENATORS PRESENT: Biddle, Biers, Eloe, Penno, Pestello, Rapp, Saliba, Webb, Yungblut

1. Opening Prayer: D. Biers said a prayer.
2. Roll Call:
3. Approval of ECAS Minutes for January 24, 2005: The January 24, 2005 minutes were distributed and everyone was requested to read and comment later. The January 31, 2005 minutes were not distributed.
4. Announcements:
 - a. D. Biers said he received a letter from Pat Donnelly and Bill Schuerman indicating strong support for the calendar committee recommendations with regard to schedule changes.
 - b. D. Biers reminded the ECAS that they need to prepare for the meeting with Bill Massy which will be held on Tuesday, February 22 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
5. Old Business:
 - o Standing Committee Reports:
 - Academic Policies Committee (APC)*: J. Biddle asked the APC for their critical issues and they had three which are: 1) The academic honesty code; 2) academic excellence/grade inflation; and 3) evaluation of thematic clusters.

Thematic clusters—J. Biddle reported that Mary Morton spoke about the process and is forming a committee that Paul Benson will head. The objective is how to move this along. If the APC meets with Paul Benson, it needs to be determined what we will do with the new committee and the past reports. Student input has not been collected in the past. It must be decided what role we play in that, and a member of the ECAS can report back. The ECAS must be kept in the loop, and it was suggested that J. Biddle be on Paul Benson's committee. It was stated that general education plays a big part in education, and it was suggested that D. Biers talk to Mary Morton and say ECAS representation needs to be on the committee. The reports of the committees need to be provided to the Senate. It was stated that Mary Morton has the committee reporting back to the Senate at the end of the semester. Each school has a representative on her committee. D. Biers and J. Biddle will talk to her. P. Eloe said he would like to be on the cluster evaluation committee. The question is who will do the evaluation—Paul Benson's committee or the

APC? D. Biers said the original evaluation of general education was done by the general education committee. A separate committee was working on the change. He feels it will be beneficial to appoint a separate committee and work on this. J. Biddle will get with D. Biers.

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC): L. Yungblut said the committee brainstormed issues. They discussed issues related to part-time faculty and grade inflation. Mary Brown has data on all grades by department. There will be a subcommittee of the Provost's Council on grade inflation and D. Biers will be the chair. They discussed the Princeton model and brought in a piece from the Dayton Daily News. A student Senator stated he does not like the Princeton model but does like the Notre Dame model. L. Yungblut said she thinks this would be a viable model. One of the issues from the FAC will be the Senate Constitution and the issue of elections taking place in the fall. K. Webb stated that information gathered from the archives indicated that changing the timing of the elections was budget related. (The change was first talked about in 1988 and actually took effect in 1991). It was felt that the new Senators would not be familiar with the budget. A comment was made that the Senate does not have much of a voice in budgeting. It was suggested to bring in someone that was involved with this in the past and explain why it was changed and if there are any reasons for not changing it back. One ECAS member stated the current method should be kept. It was suggested to consider inviting Tom Burkhardt in to ask what the key issues will be in the fall. The FAC will consider this.

Student Academic Policies Committee (SAPC): N. Buchino was not present.

6. New Business:

- *Report on Classroom Space and Utilization* – D. Biers discussed the computer program report that matches rooms with UD's sizes. All departments and all schools are on this committee. They went through and identified what a classroom space is; if it was scheduled by Patsy Martin for a class; and how many bodies were in a class. Utilization summary is the percent of available hours and stationed occupancy (percent of seats filled). There were questions from the committee about the accuracy of the data and this needs to be examined before going forward. The preliminary results showed the classroom usage and seat occupancy was below the recommendation of the consultants. The report also identified that many of the classrooms were deficient in classroom technology and undersized tablet arm seating. The overall master campus plan will help in planning for the future and get us through the fall when 15 classrooms in Miriam Hall will be taken offline for restructuring. This information is being presented to the President's Council. They will be coming back in a couple weeks with new information. It was mentioned that departments responsible for scheduling large classrooms need to be part of this.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Wilson