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2005-02-14 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

February 14, 2005 – 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in St. Mary's 113B

PRESIDING: David Biers

SENATORS PRESENT: Biddle, Biers, Buchino, Eloë, Gerla, Huelsman, 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: Minutes were approved for January 24, January 31 and February 7.
4. Announcements:
 - a. D. Biers will not attend the February 21 ECAS meeting and Bob Penno will chair.
 - b. The Vision documents and meeting information for the Bill Massy meeting will be emailed to the ECAS members. The meeting with Dr. Massy will be held on Tuesday, February 22 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in KU 311.
5. Old Business:
 - o Standing Committee Reports:
 - Academic Policies Committee (APC)*: J. Biddle said although the committee did not meet, he did give assignments to two individuals on the honesty code and academic excellence. For academic excellence, the issue was term papers (length/longer papers). These two individuals will prepare a one page summary of critical issues they see associated with it and what the committee can do to investigate those. It will not be ready before March 11. J. Biddle stated that he and D. Biers need to meet with Dean Morton and Paul Benson to discuss the issues of grade inflation and thematic clusters.
 - Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)*: L. Yungblut said the committee met and continued to discuss the list they had brainstormed. They agreed the election of Senators issue was worthy of being pursued. Most of the meeting was spent discussing issues relating to part-time faculty. The committee feels strongly about looking into the part-time faculty issues as a priority. There are still compensation questions, lack of recognition and length of service, or service to the university beyond actually just teaching courses, and the list that was previously presented to the ECAS. They want to talk to Joe Untener. The question was asked if there is going to be a committee on contingent faculty. F. Pestello stated that a committee is looking at our overall faculty strategy. With the price increase, we will take a portion this year of the new money and start moving toward

increasing the number of lecturers or visiting professors and try to decrease the number of adjuncts. There are two types of adjuncts. There are times in the professional schools that there is a need for someone working in business or industry to come in and teach a specific course. They don't want to teach full time, but they add tremendous value. What we want to do is take other part-time faculty, some of whom are doing this for a living, and try to turn some of those positions into full-time positions. We want to start moving in that direction as early as this fall assuming that everything works out in terms of what we hope with the price increase and student enrollment. We can go much further in terms of getting our students taught by full time people by going with the lecturers. We will be increasing the tenured positions later as more money comes into the system. Part of the rationale for the additional price increase is to work hard to increase the number of students in the first year that are being taught by full time faculty and decrease the number by part time. A large percentage of our first-year students are taught by part time, and this is the reason for making the investment in lecturers who will carry a heavy teaching and student load.

Student Academic Policies Committee (SAPC): N. Buchino said the committee met and discussed the Honor Code. There were revisions and it is being re-drafted. The Honor Code policy will be brought to the ECAS to review prior to the March 11 Academic Senate meeting. A question was asked about the issue that Dale Courte brought to their committee regarding the date on the academic calendar each semester indicating the last day to change grades. The ECAS decided in their January 24 meeting that there was no need to delete this item from the academic calendar. D. Biers will convey the decision to Dale Courte.

6. New Business:

- *Select ECAS members to participate on Provost's committees* – D. Biers stated it is important to have representation on the committees that F. Pestello has formed. All members were present and each made their selection.
 1. Teaching loads and workload policies - D. Biers
 2. University-wide tenure and promotion policy & process – B. Penno
 3. Post-tenure evaluation – John Rapp
 4. International strategy – Joe Saliba
 5. Nontraditional students – Paul Eloie and Kathy Webb
 6. Increasing faculty grants and sponsored research – Joe Saliba
 7. Budget issues/summer returns – Joe Saliba
 8. Building academic reputation – Laura Yungblut
 9. Strengthening the Catholic and Marianist foundation – Jim Biddle
 10. Grade inflation – Harry Gerla and Dave Biers (Lead)
- H. Gerla said the Faculty Board asked to bring something to the ECAS committee. They expressed concerns that the style of management has changed a lot, and they feel they are confronted with issues rather than being consulted. The examples they gave were: 1) cutting the medical benefits for retirees; and, 2) some of the new buildings. e.g., the new physical activity center. They were wondering if the Senate

would be discussing this. It was stated that this has been an issue—it is felt that things are coming down from above rather than things being initiated from a lower level. It was commented that being involved in committees is imperative in keeping abreast with what is going on and also being able to participate in things. It was commented that it is a faculty role to make sure that appropriate input and consultation is taking place. It was stated that we could start by keeping the ECAS informed about what is going on in the various committees and possibly posting statements on our website to announce what is being considered and who to contact.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Wilson