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2008-09-29 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
September 29, 2008
St. Mary's 113 B; 1:00 PM

Present: P. Benson, D. Biers, D. Darrow (presiding), G. Doyle, H. Gauder, J. Greenlee, R. Kearns, L. Laubach, J. Saliba, A. Seielstad

Absent: N. Jolani, A. Reichle,

Guest: J. Farrelly (Faculty Board), S. Wilhoit (University P & T Committee)

Roll Call: Ten out of twelve members of the committee were present.

Prayer: Dave Darrow opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 22, 2008 were approved as written.

New Business: Steve Wilhoit brought two issues to the table concerning the interpretation of the University Promotion and Tenure Policy. He explained that the committee is still reviewing the unit documents for fairness across the units.

a. The first problem was the use of the word “collegiality” as a criterion for P & T in the policy of one unit. The university document cites only teaching, scholarship (artistic work), and service as criteria for P & T. Members of the FAC, who were on the committee that wrote the document, stated that the use of collegiality was specifically discarded as a criterion because of the difficulty of defining it and possible legal implications. It was suggested, however, that collaboration in teaching, scholarship and service could be used as a criterion if a unit so desired. Additionally, it was also pointed out that the university policy deals with procedural and not substantive issues. Therefore, could a unit introduce additional substantive criteria into its document, and could collegiality be a criterion? If we are to accept additional criteria, would the question have to go to the Senate and a faculty vote?

The unit in question has rewritten its P & T document excluding the word collegiality, but instead using the concept of professionalism. They define professionalism to be cooperation with fellow faculty members in carrying out the mission of the university, unit, and department.

The ECAS will review the University P & T document and the wording of the rephrasing of the unit’s wording from collegiality to professionalism.

b. “Stopping the Clock” was the second issue raised. While there is a university policy on this issue, apparently units have interpreted it differently, such that there are now multiple distinct versions on campus. The FAC will be asked to look at the “Stopping the Clock” policy as it refers to the Maternity Leave policy. The FAC will also have to review the present university “Stopping the Clock” policy.

Old Business:

a. The APC delivered the CAP document and feedback form to the ECAS. The ECAS decided that this document and form should be made available immediately to the faculty, departments and appropriated constituted committees through the Provost office. Dave Darrow will check on setting up an electronic discussion site.

The APC is also going to set up forums for faculty discussion.

b. Dave Darrow will talk to Joe Untener about establishing a procedure for reviewing the Faculty Handbook.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, October 6, 2008 at 1:00 pm in St. Mary's 113 B;

Respectfully Submitted By:

George R. Doyle, Jr.

Secretary of the Senate