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2008-10-20 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
October 20, 2008
St. Mary's 113 B; 1:00 PM

Present: P. Benson, D. Biers, D. Darrow (presiding), G. Doyle, H. Gauder, J. Greenlee, N. Jolani, L. Laubach, A. Reichle, J. Saliba

Absent: R. Kearns, A. Seielstad

Guest: H. McGrew (Part-time Faculty Senator)

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

Prayer: Dave Biers opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 13, 2008 were approved as written.

Old Business

Academic Policies Committee – The APC has established 4 dates for faculty to attend open forums to discuss the Common Academic Program. They are: Oct. 28, 30, and Nov. 17, 19. Comments will be accepted until December 12.

Faculty Affairs Committee – The FAC is collecting information on maternity leave issues. It will also be looking at Stop-the-Clock.

Student Academic Policies Committee – The SAPC reported that the status of the Honor Code distribution to upperclassmen is not known. They are looking into it.

New Business

Part-Time Faculty Issues – The part-time faculty have raised several issues as to their status at UD.

Report by Heidi McGrew

- a. Part-time faculty teach 20 – 25% of the courses at UD. The ratio of salary paid to credit hours taught is much lower for part time faculty than full time faculty.
- b. There are 327 part-time faculty (~ 160 FTE), but they have only one representative on the Academic Senate and none on ECAS.
- c. Salary is a major issue, but not under the senate's purview.
- d. There are no benefits, except free parking.
- e. Possible benefits might be:
 - i. tuition remission
 - ii. buy into benefits
 - iii. reasonable pay raises
- f. Since limited teaching evaluations are done, and then only by students, there is pressure to give high grades to maintain the teaching position. A better review procedure would be appreciated.

Discussion

- a. Surveys indicate that UD's part-time salaries are above average for the region.
- b. There is not an extra "pot of money" available for a substantial raise for part-time faculty.
- c. The college is presently reviewing part-time faculty policies.
- d. AAUP guidelines on part-time faculty indicate that UD does a better than average job.
- e. Part-time faculty support 42% of teaching General Education sections.
- f. There are upper limits on the use of part-time faculty due to accreditation requirements.

Proposal: FAC and the Provost office should review part-time faculty policies as to how UD uses, or should use, these faculty.

New Business

Agenda for Oct 31 senate meeting

Medical Benefits – Joyce Carter

Stop-the Clock Policy – Joe Untener

Committee reports

Withdrawal Policy

Withdrawal without record is typically at the third week of the semester. Should it be extended to the fifth or sixth week because many students will have had their first test by that time? Check with Registrar and Provost Council.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, October 27, 2008 at 1:00 pm in St. Mary's 113 B;

Respectfully Submitted By:

George R. Doyle, Jr.

Secretary of the Senate