2001-05-03 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

May 3, 2001
12:00 p.m. in SM 113 B

PRESIDING: Betty Youngkin

SENATORS PRESENT: Bartlett, Doyle, Dunne, Erdei, Geiger, Youngkin

1. Opening Prayer: The meeting opened with a reading from T.S. Eliot.

2. Roll Call: Six of twelve senators were present.

3. Approval of ECAS minutes of April 26, 2001: The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

4. Review of Academic Senate Minutes of April 27, 2001: Several suggestions were made to clarify the minutes.

5. Final Senate Meeting Times

Because of low attendance it was suggested that the Provost office try to keep the final Academic Senate meeting of each semester away from final tests week.

6. Research Professorship

Drs. Sargent and McCabe attended the last Faculty Affairs Committee meeting to discuss the Proposal for Research Professorships.

The FAC endorsed the proposal, but requested that several refinements were needed.

   a. The authority and process for initiating such appointments, and the duration of such appointments, need to be clarified.

   b. The role and privileges of research faculty in the governance of academic units/programs should be addressed.

   c. The role of the academic units and programs in hiring, appointing, evaluating, and promoting research faculty needs further clarification.

   d. Consideration for appointment or promotion may require that methods be developed
for assessing research contributions that may be proprietary or classified.

e. The appeals procedures should be separately stated for the academic units and for UDRI.

Both the FAC and the ECAS believe that the proposal should go back to the FAC when the above modifications have been made.

The primary reason for instituting the research professorships is to allow the UDRI personnel to bid on contracts that require a professor’s involvement. It was asked if the UDRI bidders might take away contract money that could be won by academic professors. The answer was possibly yes.

It was also pointed out that the position of research professors on various faculty committees, such as the Academic Senate, needs to be defined.

Respectfully submitted by: George R. Doyle, Jr., Secretary of the Academic Senate