MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

October 4, 2002 – 2:00-3:00 p.m. in St. Mary’s 113B

PRESIDING: Brian Conniff

SENATORS PRESENT: Conniff, Dandaneau, Dunne, Gauder, Gerla, Hallinan, Morel, Morman, Pedrotti

1. Opening Prayer: B. Conniff read from “A Teacher’s Prayer” from Pat Mora’s Aunt Carmen’s Book of Practical Saints.

2. Roll Call: Nine of twelve members were present.

3. Approval of ECAS Minutes for September 27, 2002: The September 27, 2002 minutes were approved with revisions.

4. Announcements:
   - Jonathan Pyles has been voted student representative to the Academic Senate for Humanities.
   - B. Conniff met with the part-time faculty at their workshop on September 28, 2002 to discuss how they want to proceed on choosing a representative to the Academic Senate. The part-time faculty would like to have an election by ballot involving all part-time faculty, ask for volunteers to run for the position, and have the candidates submit a short bio. One person has already agreed to run. Hopefully by the end of October, a representative will be chosen and that person’s term will start January 2003.
   - T. Danford will meet with the ECAS on October 11 to discuss the dial-in networking issue. Apparently this issue has been discussed by the Faculty Board and a number of faculty on campus. It was suggested to check with the Faculty Board to see what they are doing in regards to this issue.
   - B. Conniff has sent an e-mail to T. Skill, who is out of town, regarding the Fair, Responsible and Acceptable Use of Technology.

5. Committee Reports: H. Gerla, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that his committee has a consultative proposal entitled “Suspending the “Tenure Clock” for Tenure Track Faculty Members Eligible for Family or Medical Leave” to submit to the Academic Senate. This recommendation would allow tenure track faculty to extend the seven-year tenure track up to ten years in case of an interruption due to medical or family care reasons. Gerla said that he has also circulated a draft of the letter on the proposal of Research Professorships to F. Pestello and M. McCabe.

J. Dunne, chair of the Academic Policies Committee, stated that two subcommittees continue to work on a new draft of the General Competency and Quantitative Reasoning, and Section II - the "Rationale and Goals" of the General Education Program that needs some updating. The APC is also reviewing the residency requirements and the issue of final exams for graduating seniors. The committee hopes to have proposals on the General Competency and Quantitative Reasoning, Rationale and Goals of the General Education Program, and the residency requirements ready to present at the December Academic Senate meeting.
A concern was raised by P. Morman that academic standards might be impacted by giving students the option of taking a final before finals week or by actually giving the final test during class time before finals week. This action would take away from valuable and scheduled instructional class time.

M. Morel, representative from the Student Academic Policies Committee, reported that he has another SAP meeting scheduled for October 9.

7. Brother Joseph W. Stander Symposium and Honors Convocation: S. Dandaneau stated that Paul Morman will present the proposal for a Brother Joseph W. Stander Symposium and Honors Convocation at the next Provost’s Council meeting on October 14, 2002.

8. Presidential Transition: In the spring of 2002 the ECAS discussed the possibility of making recommendations, based on what the University learned during the presidential search, that would be helpful to keep in mind in future searches. Should the Academic Senate or ECAS be a point of consultation? What are the consultative responsibilities of the Academic Senate according to the constitution in reference to presidential searches? Should recommendations for guidelines on the composition of a presidential search committee be drafted? Would it be a good idea to have a faculty member or the President of the Academic Senate sit as an ex officio on the Board of Trustees to represent the Senate, Deans, faculty, and students? D. Curran would like the Board to become more engaged with faculty. B. Conniff will write to D. Curran asking him to elaborate on his ideas on how he wants to engage the faculty with the Board and will provide the appropriate passages of the Senate Constitution for the next ECAS meeting.

9. October 11, 2002 Academic Senate Agenda: Issues to be discussed at the October 11, 2002 Academic Senate meeting are:
   - Opening Prayer
   - Roll Call
   - Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2002
   - Committee Reports
   - Election of the student representative to the ECAS
   - Proposal “Suspending the ‘Tenure Clock’ for Tenure Track Faculty Members Eligible for Family or Medical Leave”
   - Discussion concerning final exam policy

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by J. Rogatto