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2007-03-29 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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[Approved April 12, 2007]

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

March 29, 2007

St. Mary's 113 B; 12:00 AM

Present: D. Biers (presiding), D. Courte, G. DeMarco, P. Johnson, W. Lockett, M. Morton, J. O'Gorman, R. Penno, R. Wells

J. Farrelly (Faculty Board)

Roll Call:

Nine of the twelve members of the Committee were present.

Prayer and Welcome:

D. Biers opened the meeting with a prayer from Bread of the World.

Approval of Minutes:

March 22, 2007 were approved with minor corrections.

New Business:

- The Executive Committee reviewed the most recent draft of the University Promotion and Tenure Policy document. Questions were raised about the proposed reporting structure of the committee. It was suggested that the structure is analogous to the Faculty Hearing Committees. The Academic Senate acts to create the committee and give it its mandate. The Committee has responsibility to ask the Academic Senate to make decisions on certain policy and procedure issues, but the committee reports to the Board of Trustees and to the University faculty. It was noted that the Law School and the University Libraries have been given exceptions to certain processes and procedures. The Calendar has also been revised. The Faculty Affairs Committee has sent copies of the current draft to the deans of all the units and offered to meet with various groups. They will meet on April 9 to finalize the document.
- The issue of medical benefits was discussed briefly. IT was decided to ask if the Academic Senate could sponsor some open meetings for faculty and staff. D. Biers will consult with J. Carter about this.
- Senate representation and representation on the Executive Committee was discussed. D. Biers will consult with J. Untener to identify any senators who may be on leave next year or who may be leaving the University. W. Lockett announced that Andrew Fist will represent the Student Government Association. He will provide P. Johnson with the names of the divisional student senators. There is a need to replace Darren Parker in the Natural Sciences. All of the other faculty nominated in his class year are either now on the Academic Senate or not available to serve. It was decided to use the election results from the current year to determine a replacement for the one year. There is considerable confusion about the process for electing members to the Executive Committee. It was decided that following members will return to the Executive Committee to complete a second year: Business (Wells), Humanities (Johnson), Natural Sciences (this will depend

on who is the replacement for Parker. Should it be Courte, then he will complete a second year on the Executive Committee.) Members will need to be elected for two year terms in Social Sciences, Engineering, and Education. It was decided that all faculty senators in those areas are eligible no matter how many years remain on their terms on the Academic Senate. The representatives from Law and the Libraries (Seielstad and O’Gorman) are automatically on the Executive Committee. A dean will need to be elected to a one-year term to replace Morton. D. Biers will provide the 2007-2008 Academic Senate members with information about the responsibilities of members of the Executive Committee and the standing committees before the election of the new Executive committee. Elections will take place at the April 20 meeting. These will be well recorded in the minutes so that there is a specific record of which slots are being replaced and for how long.

- The Executive Committee reviewed the Faculty Strategy Case Statement for the Campaign. F. Pestello wants response. Several items will be conveyed to him by D. Biers. Individual comments may be sent.

Old Business:

D. Biers distributed a draft of the Orientation Schedule for Fall 2007. Members of the Executive committee expressed deep concern about the placement of academic advising on the schedule. Having it at 6:00 PM on the evening before classes begin is problematic for a number of reasons. Students and the academic offices that deal with schedules need sufficient time to make changes to ensure that all students are ready to begin classes. Placing advising immediately after Convocation, as in past years, emphasizes the importance for students of focusing on academic responsibilities and better enables faculty and departments to meet students and enable students to meet each other in academic programs.

The Executive committee will not meet on April 5. The agenda for the April 20 meeting of the Academic Senate will be set on April 12.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Johnson, Secretary