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2009-02-16 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

University of Dayton. Academic Senate. Executive Committee

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Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
February 16, 2009
St. Mary’s 113 B; 1:00 PM

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

Absent: A. Reichle

Guest: J. Farrelly (Faculty Board)

Opening Prayer: Paul Benson opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of February 9, 2009 were approved as written.

Announcements: There are still multiple opportunities to meet with Provost Candidates.

Committee Reports:

Academic Policies Committee – The summary of the Common Academic Program is still being reviewed. It is expected to be released to the faculty shortly.

Faculty Affairs Committee – Associate Provost Tom Skill has been invited to speak to the FAC on March 3, to outline the Intellectual Properties Policy at UD and items that should be considered in the revision of the policy. The FAC is forming an Ad Hoc subcommittee of knowledgeable individuals in IP to develop the new policy.

Student Academic Policies Committee – An Ad Hoc committee of four students, four faculty, and a LTC member, Steve Wilhoit, will work on developing a new Student Assessment of Instruction form.

Nominating Committee – A name has been chosen for the committee that will be tasked to handle the selection of members of committees that report to the Provost – Academic Senate Nominating and Recruiting Committee. The charges to that committee are being formulated.

New Business: A number of topics were discussed.

1. Smoking Policy – The Faculty Board has asked for a review of the UD smoking policy. Human Resources is forming a committee to determine compliance and consistency to State and UD policies. Since smoking contributes to health problems and insurance claims, it was suggested that UD should be a non-smoking campus. Apparently, several other campuses have instituted such a policy. It was noted the HR did provide stop-smoking help procedure. No one enrolled. HR has asked for three senate members to be on this committee. A request for three volunteers will be made at the Academic Senate meeting of Feb 20. It was noted that there should be some smokers on the committee.

2. Honor Code – Some minor revisions are being suggested to the honor pledge that is distributed to new students in the fall. A method of notifying upper-class and graduate students was suggested – place the code in the course syllabi.

3. Maternity Leave Policy – This policy will be going to the President’s Council shortly.
4. Enrollment – There is a general trend among Catholic universities that deposits are running 50% behind previous years at this time. However, UD has several positive indicators that are encouraging. We have received more applicants with higher standards, and there are more on-campus visits.

5. Students At-Risk – The University has been concerned about the reason students withdraw. It has established an office to look into circumstances to determine if it can help. A few students with financial problems have been helped this year. It has also noted that some academically-challenged students have isolated themselves rather than seek help. This often happens to new students. Being a community of learners, it is necessary that we “watch-out” for each other. It was suggested that Student Development remind students that if they notice roommates or others that seem to be disconnected from their academic studies, to seek help for them.

6. It was reported that the Board of Trustees is spending more time considering the mission and identity of the university as a community.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm in St. Mary’s 113 B;

Respectfully Submitted By: George R. Doyle, Jr., Secretary of the Senate