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2009-03-16 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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

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

Absent: H. Gauder, A. Reichle, A. Seielstad

Guest: J. Farrelly (Faculty Board)

Opening Prayer: Dave Biers opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of March 9, 2009 were approved as amended.

Announcements:
   a. Due to Spring Break ECAS will not meet on April 6 and 13.
   b. The Senate elections are complete and elected faculty are being notified.
   c. Elections for the University Promotion and Tenure Committee are being held this week.
   d. Concern was expressed over summer courses that are scheduled every morning of every day for the first three weeks of the term. It affects scheduling of other morning classes for the rest of the summer term.

Committee Reports:

   a. Academic Affairs Committee – no report
   b. Faculty Affairs Committee – First, the FAC is finishing a modification of the “Stop-the-Tenure-Clock” Policy. It will be delivered to the ECAS soon. Second, the FAC is preparing a letter that will specify the charge to the Ad Hoc Intellectual Properties subcommittee. The letter will be submitted to ECAS for approval.
   c. Student Academic Policies Committee – The SAPC met to discuss the present Student Assessment of Instruction form. They are suggesting a short-term goal and a long-term goal. The short-term goal is to draft a short explanation of the purpose of the assessment form to be read at the beginning of the class during which students fill out the form. The explanation should also express to the students that the comments are more important than filling in the circles. SGA senators will draft a paragraph before summer and pass it on to faculty members. The long-term goal will be to develop a new assessment form. Teaching assessment experts on campus will be contacted and asked to help form a basic charge for developing the new form by the end of the spring semester. Then a recognized outside consultant will be brought to campus in the early part of the fall semester to help the combined SAPC/FAC subcommittee develop a new assessment instrument.

Old Business:

Discussion on the recent policy passed by the President’s Council on outside employment was continued from last week. The Provost spoke to the Vice-President of Human Resource about the lack of consultation with the Senate on a policy that affects the faculty. Human Resources felt that the new policy did not change the present policy in the Faculty Handbook pertaining to outside employment, and was only meant to include staff in the present policy affecting faculty. However, it was pointed out that the new policy contains a couple items not included in the Faculty Handbook, such as a form to be filled out and the use of computers.

It was pointed out that there is a Human Resources Council which includes 8 – 10 faculty, including a Senator and a member of the Faculty Board. However, this council was not consulted on this subject. Furthermore, it was pointed out that only two meetings of this council were held over the past two years, and few faculty members were present. It was suggested that there needs to be more interaction between the faculty and Human Resources.
ECAS needs to impress upon Human Resources that issues that affect faculty should be aired with the Senate before a policy is sent to the President’s Council. To this end Senate President Dave Darrow expressed these sentiments at a recent meeting of the President’s Council.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

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

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