2009-04-15 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate  
April 15, 2009  
St. Mary’s 113 B; 1:00 PM

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

Absent: N. Jolani, A. Reichle

Guest: J. Farrelly (Faculty Board)

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

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of March 23, 2009 were approved as written.

Announcements: The President’s Council has a diversity speaker at their May 8, 2009 meeting. They would like a representative from ECAS.

Committee Reports:

Academic Policies Committee – none

Faculty Affairs Committee – The FAC has formed an Ad Hoc committee to develop an addendum to UD’s Intellectual Properties policy relevant to the faculty. Senator Shaw Swavey will chair the committee. It was suggested that an individual from UDRI, that has some background on the IP policy as it now stands, be on the committee.

Student Academic Policy Committee – SGA / AS student senators are developing a script that should be read to students before they fill out the Assessment of Instruction form. The goal is to have this statement by next fall.

Nominating Committee – A draft from the Ad Hoc committee that was to determine the purpose and membership of a committee that would nominate and recruit faculty to serve on university committees was submitted. Several suggestions were made.

1. Specific committees that would select members from a clearing house of faculty might be mentioned in the document – specifically committees that report to the ECAS. On the other hand, committees that do not report to the ECAS would find the list useful.

2. Suggest that the committee be made up of five members, including a student and member of ECAS.

3. The committee name should be University Nominating & Recruitment Committee.

Procedure for Moving CAP Forward:

A draft of the process for developing CAP was distributed and critiqued. The following comments were made.

1. The timetable to have a final vote by the Senate is too optimistic.

2. List of providers is long, but does not include other interest groups that might want to have input.

3. Need a 3 person group to determine, over the summer of 2009, the actual charge that will be given to providers that will develop appropriate contents for CAP in the fall of 2009.

4. On the other hand, some of the providers could work on content immediately.

5. It is necessary to review, and to condense further, the feedback from CAP Draft Proposal.
6. Suggest that ECAS review major points of feedback from CAP Draft Proposal, and specify common points of agreement.

7. It was pointed out that in the document “Habits of Inquiry and Reflection” the following statement is made. “Their university’s academic program in the early decades of the twenty-first century must investigate the pressing ethical, social, political, technological, economic, and ecological issues of its time.” The first three of these issues were covered in CAP1; the second three issues were not. Furthermore, the feedback did not give mention to the last three topics. If we want the students to have a liberal and “useful” education, why are topics such as technology, economics, and ecology (which are in the news on a daily basis) ignored?

8. The CAP1 committee did not consider the need of the university’s stakeholders – the community outside academia. Should UD live in its own vacuum, or should we care what future employees of our students believe what a well-educated individual is?

9. President Darrow will announce to the Senate at the April 24 meeting the process and timetable that will be followed to develop a CAP.

Senate Agenda

1. Announcements – CAP process
2. Committee reports
3. Report on University Nominating and Recruitment Committee

Committee chairs should send electronic copy of summary of their committee’s accomplishments this past year to the Senate secretary.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, April 20, 2009 at 1:00 pm in St. Mary’s 113B

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