Approved
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
October 18, 2010; 11 a.m.
St. Mary’s Hall Room 113B

Present: Judith Huacuja, Andrea M Seielstad, Bradley D Duncan, David Biers, Heidi G Gauder, Joseph E Saliba, Leno M Pedrotti, Corinne Daprano, Rebecca Wells, Katie Trempe, Antonio Mari

Guests: James Farrelly

Opening meditation: Leno Pedrotti opened the meeting with a meditation.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 11, 2010 meeting were not considered.

Announcements: None

J. Huacuja announced that Document 1-10-05 (Graduate Transfer Credit Policy) was approved at the Senate meeting of October 15, 2010. Additionally, she announced that the Chair of the Nominations and Recruitment Committee, Art Jipson, will come to next week’s meeting and that Rebecca Wells is stepping down from that committee, necessitating appointment of a member of ECAS to the committee. It was agreed that we would wait until after hearing the report before deciding upon a replacement.

J. Farrelly announced that joint Faculty Board/ECAS panel on faculty voice and governance issues will take place on November, at a yet-to-be-designated time and place. He indicated that they would like someone from ECAS to offer an introductory statement to begin the discussion, and A. Seielstad agreed to be that representative.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Campus Safety Policy Committee. B. Duncan introduced discussion on policies that guide faculty when they become aware of student-on-student misconduct. He indicated that there is ambiguity about the faculty’s role and liability in such situations. J. Saliba indicated that there was a new task force on sexual misconduct, chaired by Deb Bickford and Bill Fischer, and it was agreed that it would be best to convey those issues to that committee rather than bringing them forward as a Senate issue at this time. The charge of that committee is to review our internal policies and procedures in responding to sexual misconduct between students, examine the messages we are sending out to the external world, and revise and improve our response and implementation in a way that enhances the campus environment. The committee was described as a broadly representative committee, with members of the university’s legal affairs office, women’s center, student development office, students, provost’s office, and academic side, being on the committee.
P. Vanderburgh sent from Graduate Leadership Council two (2) action items that the committee approved. He indicated that his communication was informing the Senate of this action and that he did not believe either required Senate action.

The first issue involved the method of submission of graduate theses and dissertations. Beginning August 16, 2011, all such documents must be submitted on the library website. The reason no Senate action is necessary is that it changes only the procedure by which theses are submitted, and the underlying policy remains unchanged.

The second issue involved modification of the MBA Program. The GLC voted to approve a set of changes to the MBA degree and program. The proposed changes involve (1) creation of new courses, (2) changes of existing courses, (3) reduction in the number of credits required to graduate, (4) re-packaging and marketing as a new program, (5) develop of a new curriculum, (6) creation of a new executive partner program, and (6) changes in the manner of teaching, i.e., with respect to team-taught courses.

There was considerable discussion among ECAS members as to whether this proposal required Senate review and action. On the one hand, it was argued, that no Senate involvement was required because the underlying degree remains the same and that only the business school is impacted such that it is neither creating a new program nor impacting more than one unit. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the number and nature of changes as well as the business school’s description of the program as a new program rendered Senate review and approval necessary. The discussion will be continued until next week for final decision about the Senate’s role.

The meeting was adjourned just after noon.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Seielstad