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2010-12-06 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
December 6, 2010; 11 a.m.
St. Mary’s Hall Room 113B

Present: Judith Huacuja, Andrea Seielstad, Heidi G Gauder, Paul Benson, Joseph E Saliba, Leno M Pedrotti, Rebecca Wells, Katie Trempe, Antonio Mari

Guests: Tom Burkhardt

Opening Meditation: Heidi Gauder opened the meeting with a meditation.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 29, 2010 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

It was not possible to find an alternative time for the January Senate meeting so it will take place as scheduled on Friday, January 14, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Congratulations were rendered to Bradley Duncan, who was appointed to be the new Associate Dean of Graduate Professional and Continuing Education.

New Business:

B. Duncan resignation and replacement. The appointment of B. Duncan has resulted in his resignation from the Senate. As a result, it will be necessary to select (1) a new representative of the Engineering faculty, (2) a new ECAS member from the engineering senators, and (3) a new Vice President.

There is a process for selecting the engineering representative. The senate seat from engineering will be filled by the person who came in 2nd during the last election of April 26, 2010. Andrea Koziel will communicate to Yolanda Copeland the name of that person, who will then be notified about their election to the senate. It should be an automatic process.

After that, the Senate needs to decide how to elect the engineering senator for ECAS and the vice president. Several suggestions were made about possible officers and methods of replacement. Members were unanimous in wanting to ensure a fair and proper process and agreed to consult the constitution and discuss whether it might be best to have an election at the next senate meeting for the ECAS representative and Vice President. The process issue will be resolved at the next ECAS meeting.

Voting Rights Proposal. The straw vote at the December 3 Senate meeting indicated strong support for moving the proposal forward with the two recommendations together with
language committing to the consideration of faculty representation and governance issues implicated by the addition of another voting administrator.

Questions were raised about whether the two issues should be separated at this stage, thereby allowing the senate and the faculty to decide on each issue independent from the other. There was disagreement among members about this point and the issue was not resolved during the meeting.

B. Duncan proposed language confirming that the faculty representation and governance will be addressed in future deliberations of the Senate and its committees and subcommittees. One member argued that the scope of these deliberations should be expanded to include consideration of adding more student members as well. Some members thought this issue of students should be handled as a separate matter through SAPC, but the matter was not resolved by the end of the meeting.

Members raised the issue of whether the issue of whether the graduate school administrator with oversight over graduate programs even needed to be addressed in constitutional amendments. One member argued that the adding of the associate provost function to the position created a problem with the structure of the constitution, in which the Provost and Associate Provosts now serve as ex officio members but do not have voting seats on the Senate. However, most members agreed with the position that there was not a constitutional problem presented by the graduate school administrator serving as a voting member on the Senate. While one member expressed concerns about the advisability of voting on an issue of constitutional interpretation, the majority of ECAS members determined it was important to determine the position of ECAS through a vote.

Members therefore took a vote on the following interpretation of the Senate Constitution: ECAS supports the position that according to the Constitution the individual having university level administrator oversight over graduate education policies and programs at the University of Dayton has a voting seat on the Senate and that the person currently holding that position is the Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Professional and Continuing Education. Eight voted in favor of this interpretation and one against it.

It was suggested that the voting rights proposal be taken up by the Senate during its February meeting, rather than in January, and members agreed that would be the better meeting to address this matter.

**Old Business:**

There was a brief discussion about when the follow-up meeting on the financial report would take place with T. Burkhardt, and it was agreed that a special meeting date would be arranged for that after the first of the year.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Seielstad