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2011-03-25 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

University of Dayton. Academic Senate. Executive Committee

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Approved
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
March 25, 2011; 9 a.m.
St. Mary’s Hall Room 113B

Present: Judith Huacuja, Andrea Seielstad, Heidi G Gauder, Leno M Pedrotti, Rebecca Wells, Paul Benson, George Doyle, Katie Trempe, Carolyn Roecker Phelps

Absent: Joseph Saliba, Antonio Mari, Corinne Daprano

Guests: James Farrelly

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

Minutes: The minutes of the March 18, 2011 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

The next Senate meeting is Friday, April 15, 2011. That will be our last meeting of the year. New Senate members will be seated. There will be an election for new officers.

The Voting Rights proposal was approved by the faculty. It will be reviewed by President, Dan Curran, and sent on to the Board of Trustees.

Some changes had to be made to the CAP & Competencies Committee and CAP Leadership Team. George DeMarco from the SOEAP was not able to serve, so John White was recommended and approved for the CAP & Competencies Committee. Fran Pestello is retiring so APC approved Art Jipson of Social Sciences to replace her on the CAP Leadership Team. Nancy Mohan was approved by the APC for the School of Business with an additional exception that Elizabeth Gustafson will substitute for her during the summer.

A Seielstad reported that members of the FAC and SAPC participated in a session with outside consultants retained to review our university disciplinary policies.

New Business:

Consultation about University Hiring. It was reported that several members of ECAS had a short discussion with Provost Saliba after the March 18 Academic Senate meeting. The conversation centered around whether there needs to be open consultation with the Senate in creating new positions and selecting people to serve in them by the Provost or executive leaders of the University, with the Provost arguing that his vice presidential appointments were personnel matters over which the Senate lacked consultative authority and others arguing that the Senate Constitution, the university’s affirmative action and equal opportunity policies, and longstanding practices regarding other appointments did require consultation.
ECAS had an extended discussion about this matter. Several members pointed out that the preamble of the Senate constitution as well as the constitution’s parameters for concurrence and consultation already allowed for and arguably required consultation with the Senate in such situations. Past practices have typically included Senate representatives and committees in search processes conducted for some prior administrative appointments. Additionally, the university has an existing Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity policy that would justify consultation and involvement by the Senate in the appointment process, particularly with respect to decisions that created new positions, changed the university’s organizational charts, involved decisions about whether to conduct a national search, or otherwise involved hiring or promoting or other opportunities within the university.

It was reported that students were consulted, at least in the determination over whether to conduct an internal or national search for the Vice President position involving student services, and several members expressed concern that students were consulted but not the Senate. Additionally, it was pointed out that previous discussions about whether to appointment a particular person for mission and identity led to a decision NOT to hire someone, in favor of more broad community engagement in and determination of mission and identity.

The Provost was not present for this discussion. It was agreed that there should be further discussion of the matter to address the following issues: (1) what the Academic Senate wants to say about the matter in light of the university’s Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Policy, and (2) what the expectation should be for consultation in matters of creating new administrative positions and appointing people to occupy them. We will continue this discussion with the Provost next week.

**Agenda for April 15 Senate meeting.** There was a brief discussion about the election process to take place at the April Senate meeting. It was agreed that Carolyn and George would serve the remaining two-year terms of those they replaced. Election for officers and ECAS will take place at the April meeting. Some members of ECAS have terms that have expired. There should be a new dean representative to ECAS elected at the April meeting. Business and Humanities will also need to select representatives for ECAS. Student representatives will have to be elected according to SBA. Some members questioned the process for selecting the graduate school student representative, requesting further information about the selection process and emphasizing the importance of developing a process that draws from a broad pool of possible nominees. Judith Huacuja is stepping away from the Senate, having been appointed to Chair her department.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Seielstad