2010-12-03 Monthly Report to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

University of Dayton. Academic Senate. Executive Committee

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ECAS Report to the Senate 12-03-10

ECAS reviewed the Department of Chemistry’s proposed B.S. Degree Program in Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry. ECAS voted in support of the APC’s determination that the proposal does not impact multiple units across the university and therefore requires no further action by the senate. ECAS is currently reviewing the process for approvals of new degree programs and will consider making recommendations about that process in January.

ECAS has discussed the Senate Sub-Committee to Address Constitutional Voting Issues (SACVI) Proposal on Revisions to the Composition of the Academic Senate. ECAS appreciates the committee’s careful reading of the Senate Constitution and their conclusion that the Constitution allows voting rights to extend to the position of the Dean of Graduate Programs and Continuing Education. ECAS largely supports the language changes set out in the proposal that make clear the “Dean with university level oversight over graduate programs and policies” has voting rights.

As submitted by SACVI, the proposal puts forth for a vote the following two components:

4.1 Concerning the Associate Provost & Dean of GPCE

The SACVI proposes that under the list of voting Deans in Article IV, Section A.2. (Deans) of the Senate constitution, the words “Graduate School” be eliminated and the language “Dean with university level oversight over graduate programs and policies” be added.

4.2 Concerning the Dean of University Libraries

The SACVI proposes that the Dean of University Libraries be granted a voting seat on the University of Dayton Academic Senate and that the words
“University Libraries” be added to the list of voting Deans in Article IV, Section A.2. (Deans) of the Senate constitution.

**While** ECAS largely supports both components of the Senate Voting Rights proposal, a **variety** of questions and concerns have been raised in our ECAS’ discussions. Several members indicated the need to add a faculty member to the Senate to create a more satisfactory correlation between faculty and administrative votes.

ECAS determined not to split the components and not to offer them as separate proposals. ECAS is concerned that splitting the components could possibly marginalize the latter component. ECAS determined to prevent a loss of momentum by keeping both components in the proposal and to move forward both items along with a consideration of how best to constitute an appropriate balance of votes. This work will require an expanded or new subcommittee to undertake this expanded charge.

Ultimately, ECAS determined that the Senate Voting Rights proposal needs more work to develop additional research on senate voting rights in order to address the questions **what is the best balance of votes across administrators, faculty and students.** ECAS heard concerns that the 2nd component of the Senate Voting Rights might not pass unless it considers adding a faculty or student vote or providing justification for not adding a faculty vote. ECAS recommends that additional research will seek to determine criteria for the appropriate ratio of administrative, faculty and student senate votes. This criteria will include faculty and student votes within the various areas spread across the schools and programs. ECAS recommends that this research be presented for discussion at faculty forums and at senate meetings before a revised
Senate Voting Rights proposal is brought forward for senate discussion and a possible vote.

No official votes will be taken within the senate today. Rather, we open the senate forum to discussion. This will be an information gathering session. We invite members of the senate to consider:

1. Consider the viability of the current Senate Voting Rights proposal.
2. Consider criteria for granting additional faculty voting rights on the Senate.
3. Consider criteria for granting additional Deans (such as Dean of Students and Dean of Admissions) voting rights on the Senate.
4. Consider criteria for granting additional student voting rights on the Senate.
5. Consider supporting additional research to determine criteria for the appropriate ratio of administrative, faculty and student Senate votes. Criteria would include faculty and student votes within the various areas spread across the schools and programs. This research would be presented for discussion at faculty forums and at Senate meetings before a revised Senate Voting Rights proposal is brought forward for Senate discussion and a possible vote.

If the Senate concurs with the ECAS decision to further develop the proposal, the Senate may be asked later in April to vote in support of a one year extension of temporary voting rights for the Dean of Graduate Programs and Continuing Education. The voting rights will be in place through May 2012.
Respectfully submitted by Judith Huacuja, President, Academic Senate.