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2012-10-31 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved
Minutes of Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
October 31, 2012
St. Mary's Hall Room 113B

Present: Paul Benson, Robyn Bradford, Corinne Daprano, George Doyle, Harry Gerla, Emily Hicks, Sheila Hughes, Terrence Lau, Ruth Monnier, Leno Pedrotti, Carolyn Phelps, Joseph Saliba

Absent: None

Guest: None

Opening Meditation: Sheila Hughes opened the meeting with a meditation

Minutes: The minutes of the October 17, 2012 ECAS meeting were approved.

Announcements: The next meeting of ECAS is November 7, 2012 from 3:15-4:45 PM in SM 113B.

Reports:

FAC. E. Hicks reported that neither the Faculty Workload nor the Outside Employment policy documents are ready to be presented at the November ASenate meeting. FAC plans to have them ready for the December meeting.

SAPC. G. Doyle reported that the SAPC is still waiting for data from Tom Burkhardt and Dave Necessary before continuing their discussions of the 18th credit hour proposal. It is also necessary to put on hold the SAPC's summer tuition and scholarship distribution proposals at this time.

T. Lau reported that he shared the results of the survey conducted by the SAPC on dishonesty in distance learning courses with David Wright. Although the UD faculty who were surveyed do not perceive dishonesty to be happening in their distance learning courses the literature indicates that 75% of students reported cheating when taking a distance learning course. T. Lau reported that D. Wright is working on creating a best practices document for instructors of distance learning courses to combat the issue of dishonesty in these courses.

New Business:

Department Proposal Process (DOC 12-08). L. Pedrotti reported that the APC is considering a revision to DOC 12-08 that was passed last year by the ASenate. He suggested that the renaming of departments (see section 2.2) could be something addressed by an administrative policy rather than requiring ASenate action. C. Phelps wondered how the ASenate would then keep a record of these actions. L. Pedrotti suggesting allowing the units to make policies regarding the renaming of departments and then letting ECAS decide whether or not to send these proposals to the Senate. C. Phelps agreed that it makes sense to keep the renaming process separate from the department suspension/discontinuation process. H. Gerla suggested changing section 2.2.2 (#5) to more clearly indicate that proposals, such as a renaming proposal, can be "sent to the Senate for consultation". L. Pedrotti agreed to discuss this issue with APC and bring a revision of the document back to ECAS. C. Daprano suggested that there also needed to be more clarity regarding the process for splitting a department into two separate departments. L. Pedrotti agreed to also take a look at the process for creating a new department to determine if it's overly cumbersome.

Competencies. L. Pedrotti reported that the APC is discussing the Common Academic Program (CAP) document and the concern that there is no mention of the competencies in the document. This appears to mean that the CAPCC (CAP Competencies Committee) does not have oversight responsibility for the competencies. The APC is currently reviewing several ways to address this issue: 1) add a sentence to

the CAP document to give CAPCC oversight over the competencies; or, 2) eliminate the competencies. L. Pedrotti consulted with Deb Bickford, Pat Donnelly, Joe Mashburn (MTH), and Jon Hess (CMM) regarding the latter option. He has not yet had a chance to consult with Heidi Gauder (LIB) regarding this option. ECAS then discussed the issue of the competencies.

S. Hughes suggested that it might make sense to revisit the existing competencies as UD transitions to the CAP to determine if there are redundancies. She did note that the competencies have required a higher standard (a passing grade of C- or above) for graduation than what is called for in the CAP document. L. Pedrotti noted that restrictions on courses so that they satisfy the competencies might limit how those courses are constructed to satisfy CAP. He also agreed that there is redundancy between the competencies and CAP. He suggested that it may make some sense to improve the descriptions of what constitutes a CAP course when CAP is reviewed in 2 years. He suggested that the ASenate take action on the competency question before the end of the Spring 2012 term.

C. Phelps asked whether anyone outside of the university examines or reviews the competencies when our students graduate. J. Saliba indicated that accreditation agencies, such as the Higher Learning Commission, will only examine the competencies if we are using them to measure student graduation outcomes. Many universities are currently examining whether they are in the business of developing competencies/skills (training) or in the business of meeting educational outcomes that transform students. He also stated that a decision regarding the competencies is an ASenate (academic) decision and one that should not be based on administrative concerns/opinions.

November Senate Meeting. C. Phelps reported that currently ECAS has no agenda items to put forward for the November ASenate meeting. J. Saliba suggested using the November meeting, which had traditionally been a joint ASenate/faculty meeting, to communicate some changes that are on the horizon to faculty. He indicated that the Provost's Office has had two open forums this semester to enhance communication with faculty and that they have not been well attended. Several potential topics for the November ASenate meeting were discussed.

S. Hughes suggested having some discussion of faculty development initiatives for working with international students. It also might be helpful to present UD's strategy and guiding principles regarding international student enrollment. R. Monnier agreed that it would be beneficial for students to understand this issue as well. R. Bradford agreed that the topic needs further discussion and reported on her efforts to help international students search for scholarship opportunities. She also mentioned the need for career services for international students who plan to work and live in the U.S. after graduation. ECAS agreed these were good topics for discussion perhaps in an open forum (e.g. Faculty Exchange Series) rather than an ASenate meeting. ECAS canceled the November ASenate meeting.

Old Business:

J. Saliba reported that the Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) unanimously approved the following changes: 1) the Graduate School will now be called Graduate Academic Affairs; and, 2) the current title of the Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate, Professional, & Continuing Education (GPCE) has been changed to Associate Provost, Graduate Academic Affairs. C. Phelps added that this means that there is no longer a Graduate School Dean and that the ASenate constitution will now need to be revised. P. Benson questioned whether the ASenate really needs to address this issue in the ASenate constitution since the office of Graduate School Dean no longer exists. ECAS decided to address this issue at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Corinne Daprano

Standing committee work assignments. Below is an updated list of assigned standing committee tasks:

Task	Source	Previously assigned	To	Work due	Due
Consultation	ECAS	ECAS	ECAS	Open communication	ongoing
Faculty workload		FAC	FAC	Proposal	
Policy on outside employment		FAC	FAC	Proposal	
18 th credit hour	Faculty		SAPC	Proposal	
Summer tuition	Faculty		SAPC	Proposal	
Scholarship distribution	Faculty		SAPC	Proposal	
Retitle for Assoc. Provost, Dean of GPCE	Provost	Sent for GLC input prior to proposal to ECAS		Proposal	
Tasks ongoing					
SET Committee oversight	ECAS		ECAS	Hear monthly reports; Linda Hartley, chair	
Dishonesty in distance learning	SAPC			Survey results	
CAP Competency Committee oversight	Senate		APC	Hear monthly reports	
UNRC			ECAS	Hear monthly reports; Emily Hicks, chair	