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2012-11-07 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved
Minutes of Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
November 7, 2012
St. Mary's Hall Room 113B

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

Absent: Paul Benson

Guest: Tom Westendorf

Opening Meditation: Terrence Lau opened the meeting with a meditation

Minutes: The minutes of the October 31, 2012 ECAS meeting were approved.

Announcements: The next meeting of ECAS is November 14, 2012 from 3:15-4:45 PM in SM 113B.

C. Phelps reported that T. Lau will be on sabbatical next semester and a replacement is needed to fill his position on the ASenate and ECAS. She will check with Jackie Estep to see who is supposed to replace him on the ASenate and then proceed with a ASenate vote to replace him on ECAS.

Reports:

Calendar Committee. T. Westendorf (Registrar) discussed possible options regarding the academic calendar for the next several years. He reviewed the benefits of a proposed Option A calendar and noted that this option allowed for an extended holiday break (4 weeks) between fall and spring semester as well as a mid-term and Easter break during spring semester. Additionally, Option A included a proposal to hold classes on Labor Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 AYs. He noted that holding classes on both of those days would prevent Monday only classes from losing the first couple of weeks of fall and spring semester. He also reviewed Option B and indicated that this option was constructed more like the academic calendar UD has traditionally followed. Option B also included an extended holiday break and mid-term and Easter break instead of a 1-week spring break.

ECAS engaged in a discussion of the proposed calendars generally focusing on the following issues: 1) holding classes on Labor Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; 2) holding classes on St. Patrick's Day; 3) the extended holiday break between fall and spring semesters; and, 4) the lack of a 1-week spring break during spring semester. In response to these issues, T. Westendorf indicated that the committee tried to construct an academic calendar for the next several years that would constitute the best learning experience for students while also balancing the various concerns of faculty, students, and staff regarding the timing of holidays and breaks. For example, the extended holiday break between fall and spring semester seems to allow faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to plan/prepare for spring semester, engage in scholarly activities, travel and re-energize for the spring semester. Conversely, a full spring break week (particularly when Easter is in April) during spring semester seems to break up the flow of the academic experience. Much of the remaining discussion regarding the proposed calendar options involved the issue of holding classes on Labor Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

T. Westendorf then asked ECAS to make a recommendation to the Calendar Committee regarding the proposed calendar options. After some discussion ECAS decided to consult with colleagues in each of their respective units before providing a recommendation to the committee. ECAS agreed that the feedback should revolve around the issues of holding classes on Labor Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as well as a one (1) week spring break versus two (2) four day weekends at mid-term and Easter weekend.

SAPC. G. Doyle discussed the 18th credit hour proposal initiated by the SAPC. He reported that he has not yet received data from Tom Burkhardt, VP Financial Affairs regarding student credit hours and tuition. It may make sense to table this proposal till after the Board of Trustees meeting in January when the new tuition/fee model has been determined. Provost Saliba argued that allowing all UD undergraduate students to take an 18th credit hour without additional cost is more of an academic rather than a financial issue. He reported that the Provost’s Council will be discussing this issue next Tuesday. He also suggested that it may make sense to align the opportunity to take 18 credit hours without additional cost to a GPA requirement or advisor approval process rather than junior/senior level standing. ECAS agreed to table this proposal at this time.

Title Change for Associate Provost, Dean of GPCE. C. Phelps asked for feedback from ECAS regarding whether or not a proposal regarding this title change should be put before the ASenate for consultation.

G. Doyle asked if there were any accreditation issues regarding the proposed title change since we would no longer have a Graduate School Dean. Provost Saliba agreed to check with the Higher Learning Commission to see if this would create any issues. ECAS agreed to discuss this issue again at their next 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	ECAS	Discussion
Retitle for Assoc. Provost, Dean of GPCE	Provost	Sent for GLC input prior to proposal to ECAS		Proposal December meeting
Department Processes	ECAS		APC	Proposal

Competencies	CAPCC		APC		
Tasks ongoing SET Committee oversight					
ECAS		ECAS		Hear monthly reports; Linda Hartley, chair	
Dishonesty in distance learning	SAPC		ECAS		
CAP Competency Committee oversight	Senate		APC	Hear monthly reports	
UNRC			ECAS	Hear monthly reports; Emily Hicks, chair	
Summer tuition	Faculty		SAPC	On hold until tuition model is further developed	
Scholarship distribution	Faculty		SAPC	On hold until tuition model is further developed	