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2013-02-27 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
February 27, 2013
St. Mary's Hall Room 113B

Present: Paul Benson, Corinne Daprano, George Doyle, Ralph Frasca, Harry Gerla, Emily Hicks, Sheila Hughes, Leno Pedrotti, Carolyn Phelps, Joseph Saliba

Absent: Robyn Bradford, Hussein Saleh

Guest: Jim Farrelly, Pat Donnelly

Opening Meditation: Sheila Hughes opened the meeting with a meditation

Minutes: The minutes of the February 20, ECAS meeting were approved

Announcements:

The next meeting of ECAS is March 6, 2013 from 3:15-4:45 PM in SM 113B. Tom Burkhardt (Finance) will attend this ECAS meeting.

C. Phelps reported that shared ECAS' comments regarding the MS in Computer Engineering PDP (i.e., statement regarding "majority of engineers, clarification for recommended and required prerequisites) with Paul Vanderburgh who said he will share them with the School of Engineering.

Reports:

Committee Reports

FAC. E. Hicks reported that the FAC approved the revisions that were made to the Sabbatical policy at their last meeting. She also reported that the Outside Employment Policy revisions were being voted on via email by the FAC. This may allow the document to be ready for the March ASenate meeting.

APC. L. Pedrotti reported that the APC reviewed and approved the TESOL certificate program at their last meeting. ECAS agreed that there was no need to bring the certificate program forward to the ASenate for approval. He also indicated that the APC may need to consider an ASenate approval process for certificate programs since there currently is no ASenate approval process for these kinds of programs. This may be appropriate to put on the APC's issues list for next year for study especially when considering certificate programs that cross units.

Further, L. Pedrotti reported that the APC had finished putting together the Competency proposal and the document is currently being circulated to the committee for review. Revisions to the Program/ Department Proposal process have also been completed.

SAPC. No report

Old Business:

Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) FES. C. Phelps reported that the February 26 SET FES was well attended and that many questions were asked by those present at the meeting. She asked ECAS to consider whether or not another faculty forum should be scheduled so the SET committee can present the results of the pilots they have conducted.

J. Saliba asked about the timeline for implementing the new SET instrument and process (i.e. on-line administration of the instrument). C. Phelps indicated that the SET committee was looking to conduct a

campus wide pilot of the new SET instrument and process during the fall semester (2013). ECAS agreed that early in the fall the SET committee can issue its recommendations and conduct a pilot of the new instrument and process. C. Phelps will confirm the committee's plan for fall semester and request that the committee issue a report to the ASenate in the fall with its recommendations.

Tuition Remission. C. Phelps asked ECAS to comment on the need for a resolution from the ASenate regarding the new tuition remission plan. J. Farrelly agreed that a resolution is the proper format for voicing the ASenate's concern regarding this issue. L. Pedrotti suggested that the ASenate needs to be specific and clear about its concerns when drafting such a resolution.

ECAS discussed further the implications of the new tuition remission plan. L. Pedrotti asked whether it was possible to grandfather current employees into this benefit. He also suggested that more transparency is needed so that faculty and staff more fully understand the ramifications of the new tuition remission plan. ECAS members agreed that many faculty and staff do not fully understand the new tuition remission plan. E. Hicks expressed concern that the changes to the tuition remission policy would make it more difficult for employees to take classes. Of particular concern was the increased cost for employees taking graduate classes. J. Saliba indicated that the Provost's Office is working on scheduling open forums and publishing additional information about the new policy so that it is more fully explained to faculty and staff. J. Farrelly then suggested that ECAS wait to see the details of the new policy then, if needed, issue an ASenate resolution. J. Saliba then offered to explain the details of the new plan by drawing a chart for ECAS to compare before and after costs of the new tuition remission plan. The chart is reproduced below.

Undergraduate Tuition Remission Plan (Before/After)					
Employee (PT student)		Dependent (FT student)		Dependent (PT student)	
Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Charged minimal fees (generally course related); not BUF (basic undergrad fees)	Charged 5% of combined tuition/fees	Charged BUF (~ \$1,400/yr.)	Charged 5% of combined tuition/fees (~ \$1,850/yr.) *95% tuition remission plan	Charged minimal fees (generally course related); not BUF (basic undergrad fees)	Charged 5% of tuition (cost/credit hour)

Graduate Tuition Remission Plan (Before/After)	
Employee (PT student)	
Before	After
Charged minimal fees (generally course related)	Charged 5% of tuition + course related fees

P. Donnelly summarized the undergraduate tuition remission plan by stating that the net tuition payment will be the same for FT non-dependent students and FT dependent students (FT). ECAS agreed that spelling out the differences in this manner would be helpful to faculty and staff; many of whom have expressed a great deal of concern over the new tuition remission policy. J. Saliba reiterated that the Provost' Office is planning to include information on the new tuition remission policy in the next Campus Report. This explanation would be followed by open forums which would be used to further communicate the new policy and changes to the campus community. He also suggested that Human Resource Advisory Council (HRAC) meetings may not be an adequate forum for communicating to faculty and staff benefits changes that are occurring.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 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
Policy on outside employment		FAC			March
Department Processes	ECAS		APC	Proposal	April
Competencies	CAPCC		APC		April
TESOL certificate	SOEAP		APC	Proposal	March
Discontinuation of BSE in Art Ed	SOEAP		APC	Proposal	March/ April
Intellectual Property – Distance learning	Provost				
Sabbatical leave	Provost			Review	
Tasks ongoing					
SET Committee oversight	ECAS		ECAS	Hear monthly reports; Linda Hartley, chair	
CAP Competency Committee oversight	Senate		APC	Hear monthly reports	
UNRC			ECAS	Hear monthly reports; Emily Hicks, chair	