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2020-02-28 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved Minutes
Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
February 28, 2020
9:00 am – 10:30 am, SM 113B

Present: Joanna Abdallah, Paul Benson, Anne Crecelius, Michael Davies, Shannon Driskell, Deo Eustace, Mark Jacobs, Denise James, Leslie Picca, Fran Rice, Andrea Seielstad

Excused: Jason Pierce

Absent:

Guests: Janet Bednarek (Faculty Board representative)

Opening

- Opening prayer / meditation – Janet Bednarek (prayer)
- Approval of minutes from 02/21/2020 ECAS meeting--approved

Announcements

- There were no announcements

New Business

- Strategies for stimulating greater faculty participation in university service – open discussion activity to generate ideas.

Comments:

- The entry point into service is a high step for some people.
- Are we discussing strategies to stimulate faculty participation on committees or for other tasks being asked? Where is this discussion point coming from?
- Typically, the same people are appointed to committees.
- Why would I give away research time to serve?
- How do we punish someone who says no they don't want to serve, take away merit? This is not a huge deterrent.
- In terms of service, what is the thing faculty are not doing? Service at the departmental level or at the university level? Should we get chairs involved? Opportunities for advancement are not apparent because service work is not rewarded.
- Service extends beyond formalized committee work –like revising curriculum, proposing new courses, or student recruitment expectations.
- What is the point of service? Do we want to make the university better? Lots of women serving on committees, but typically the male becomes the chair. This is something they can put their name on. We are a university that is heavy service.
- There is a line between service and duty of an appointment as director. The administrative piece cannot be overlooked, it is heavy on the meeting side. Less group meetings may be more efficient? Possible future Academic Senate discussion?

Old Business

- Senate meeting flow – Mark: will provide background on the resolution, the resolution will be read, and there will be a motion to approve.
- Charge to FAC for addressing evaluations of teaching, research, and service – Mark: will revise the charge to FAC (in ECAS folder). The charge was unanimously approved. It was agreed to wait until all feedback is received on changes to DOC 2006-10 before a charge is given to FAC to review.

Question: How will we gather feedback on the two proposed policies? Answer: As we did in the past, through Deans, Councils, but not from the whole campus. These are general policies and, if approved, will be included in the faculty handbook.

- Update on open forums – Leslie: Not a huge number of attendants at sessions. There's a lot of future meetings scheduled and we've provided opportunities for others to provide feedback. Should we keep all of those meetings? Low attendance is attributed to people having too much to do, some are waiting on the final draft, and some feel they have an opportunity to provide feedback, but are waiting to see what happens. There appears to be themes emerging from the forums.
 - The proposed changes look like a check box form for P&T.
 - Concerns around the content and length of training.
 - Don't like community engaged scholarship being included. People need clarity around community engaged scholarship, i.e. where it is counted? Some think this is service.
 - Could a department make the decision to spell out how many of each you could use toward P&T?
 - Standards for evaluating interdisciplinary departments needs to be generated.
 - Some issues cannot be resolved at the university level, some will still need to be decided at the department level.
 - We need to be careful about setting standards here at UD that are different from the profession.
 - Changes might force departments to take this into consideration with letters of hire.

Leslie will provide an update at AS. She will review the process and open forum dates, announce the availability of videos in April and again in Fall. There will be a reminder of campus visits from Tim Eatman and Michael Rohd and encourage senators to engage in these conversations. Dr. Eatman will be providing a definition of community engaged scholarship. Units can come and see a vision of what this might look like for them.

- Proposal for a symposium on the election before the election in November 2020 –Andrea: This would encourage faculty to allow students to focus on the election, have reflections and not have assignments on voting day. ECAS felt there would be push back on this approach. A draft resolution encouraging election participation will be presented to ECAS.
- Possible issue with Academic Honor Code—Anne: There are instances of students creating materials and posting to the web. The material is then submitted as a class assignment. Not too sure this is covered in the Academic Honor Code. There needs to be more specific guidance around submitting work for multiple purposes. Perhaps this should be the responsibility of the faculty to set expectations and not try to cover everything in a policy.
- Senate composition discussion – pend for future meeting
- Mini-course approvals – pend for future meeting

Adjourned: 10: 33 am

Respectfully submitted, Fran Rice