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## 2001-09-28 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

University of Dayton. Academic Senate. Executive Committee

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## Executive Committee Minutes - September 28, 2001

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON  
DAYTON, OHIO

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

September 28, 2001 – 1:00 p.m. in KU 222

PRESIDING: Betty Youngkin

SENATORS PRESENT: Bartlett, Bartley, Dandaneau, Doyle, Dunne, Erdei, Gerla, Hall, Hary, Morman, Youngkin

1. Opening Prayer: B. Youngkin asked for a moment of silence and then read a Psalm.
2. Roll Call: Eleven out of twelve members were present.
3. Approval of ECAS minutes of September 21, 2001: The minutes were approved as amended.
4. Announcements: B. Youngkin reported that there are two student senators who were elected to serve their terms starting in January but they are no longer on campus. Due to the personnel change in the Provost Office, the records for the students' election cannot be found, so arrangements have to be made to replace them. It was decided by the ECAS that the SGA students representing the Natural Sciences and Business Departments would be the replacements for the interim period.
5. Presentation of "The University Honors and Scholars Program" by S. Dandaneau. S. Dandaneau referred to an e-mail from F. Pestello who stated the new Honors and Scholars Program was a good idea. His only questions were about the staffing and resources. The role of the ECAS is mainly consultation, but a Senate vote would be needed to establish a policy to grant an Honors degree that hasn't been granted before. The main idea is to change what is known as the University Scholars Program and transform it into a full-fledged Honors Program, which offers all of the students in first and second year a chance to earn an honors degree from the University of Dayton. For part of this process the students would undertake an honors' research thesis. The existing Honors Program will change into a more focused and clearly defined John W. Berry Scholars Program. This program should graduate distinctive graduates. These students will complete a program composed of "a unique integrated seminar sequence, faculty-mentored independent research, a specialized study abroad, leadership and service opportunities." Presently 40 Honors students are admitted every year. With the new program, there will be 30 Berry Scholars. Currently 2,000 students are University Scholars who enter the University with stringent criteria. It is possible to "earn your way into the program" after the first, second, or third year by obtaining a 3.5 GPA overall. There are 420 first year students in the Scholars Program this year. The Honors and Scholars Program will have a higher level of criteria for incoming students to fulfill. The final authority for all kinds of decisions on criteria will rest with the Deans, along with the recruiting of students and determining special circumstances for certain students.

Concerns were addressed about the addition of new staff and the role of part time faculty in the process. Several suggestions were made to cover new classes that may be created due to smaller class sizes for Honors students. "An escape clause" was suggested to cover students who are accepted into the University based upon portfolios, such as the fine arts students, in addition to ACT scores and high school rank. The University may have a good student who can't maintain the 3.4 GPA required, so the Dean has the discretion to keep that student in the program. Another concern

addressed was there are many students who are not Honors students but who are doing research projects in their areas of study. Since the Honors students have to do research projects, in particular, science students, the amount of lab space necessary to perform these projects would be taken by Honors student and the non-Honors students would not have the opportunity to do projects.

It was also suggested that faculty receive a small stipend to highlight the faculty's work with undergraduate students. Faculty should be mentors to students, but they must realize that the process is very time consuming. If the number of theses goes up, will the students get the best possible attention from the professors? The Department should set the standards for the priorities. The Department chairs and advisors should decide what theses are appropriate. The students will take a well-developed thesis workshop.

International experience is required for the Berry Scholars. Certain groups of students, due to the sequencing of their courses, may not have the opportunity to study a semester abroad. It was suggested that there are ways to work with this situation by having students go on a weeklong experience with Campus Ministry.

The restructuring proposal will be discussed at the next full Academic Senate meeting, with the final decision to approve or modify this proposal resting with the Provost Council. The next step, however, is for the proposers to take this to the Department Chairs. A recommendation was made that this committee oversee the proposal and a letter from the deans would state that they have fully advised their faculty of the upcoming changes. It is hoped that a decision can be made so the University can start recruiting students in the summer of 2002 for the fall of 2003.

6. Item Not on Agenda – A proposal about the Undergraduate +/- Grading System by the Academic Policies Committee will be presented at the Academic Senate in October. The SGA has come up with an idea concerning the retake policy, but this item will not be presented on October 12.
7. Committee Reports – Sometime this term, the Academic Policies Committee expects possible proposals from the Graduate School and Graduate Council regarding the potential impact of the new grading system.

The Faculty Affairs Committee did not meet.

The Student Academic Policies Committee discussed the issue of walking early through the graduation ceremony, a practice SAPC does not favor. Placing Level 3 Suspension on a student's transcript has too many questions that need to be addressed before making any decisions.

8. The Executive Committee was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Rogatto, Office of the Provost