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2004-10-21 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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APPROVED

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
DAYTON, OHIO

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

October 21, 2004 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. in St. Mary's 113B

PRESIDING: John Rapp

SENATORS PRESENT: Biers, Buchino, Dandaneau, Eloe, Gauder, Gerla, Forkin, Rapp, Saliba, Yungblut

1. Opening Prayer: J. Rapp said a prayer from *The Marianist Family Prayer Book*.
2. Roll Call:
3. Approval of ECAS Minutes for October 14, 2004: The October 14, 2004 minutes were approved.
4. Announcements:
 - a. There was an editorial in Friday's *Flyer News* regarding no fall break. J. Rapp responded that this issue had already been addressed.
 - b. Report from FAC to BRIT— J. Rapp received a response from Patsy Bernal-Olson that she did not understand it. It was sent to Lisa Kloppenberg and she didn't see any problems with it. They will probably want to meet with the FAC.
 - c. Classrooms issue – This was discussed in the Provost's Council and there was some surprise that Patsy Martin does not have access to all rooms. There are approximately 30 classrooms that are "protected" and she cannot assign them. It was stated that there is expensive equipment in some classrooms, and the departments are responsible for replacing missing equipment. It was mentioned that some of the other classrooms have been furnished through donor contributions. It was agreed that there needs to be a process in place. J. Rapp will communicate this to Patsy and Tom Westendorf. J. Rapp said Patsy is trying to do an inventory of each classroom. The issue was brought up that it did not make sense to use outside consultants to do the study. It was questioned why Joe Untener's committee is working on this and also bringing in a consultant to do the same thing. Some of the faculty have been told that campus security will not lock classrooms at night. This is an issue that needs to be addressed, and J. Rapp will raise the issue in the Provost's Council why campus police can't lock classrooms.
 - d. Bells issue – J. Rapp reported to the Provost's Council that this issue is not changing, and he will send an email that this issue is closed and there will not be any bells.

5. Old Business:

○ *Standing Committee Reports:*

Academic Policies Committee (APC): Walking short at graduation—D. Biers said there was only one negative vote for this issue, and it will go forward and be brought up at the October 29 Academic Senate meeting. It was suggested that we inform the Senate members first. J. Rapp said that it has to be in the proper format and the agenda needs to be sent out by Friday, October 22. D. Biers said he would format the walking short document and email to J. Rapp and J. Wilson. It was also brought up that the ECAS members need to do some face-to-face groundwork to get the message out regarding this issue.

Thematic clusters—Pat Johnson’s review of thematic clusters was sent out. J. Rapp said that F. Pestello felt this needs to be done. There was a concern with the assessment because thematic clusters are part of general education. A review was supposed to be done but never happened. It was mentioned that there might be some biases in the assessment, and it does not coordinate with the first year experience. It was decided that we need to move forward soon. J. Rapp asked D. Biers to report that we will be doing this in the Academic Senate meeting.

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC): L. Yungblut stated the committee looked at the latest draft of the faculty maternity policy last Friday. The suggestions that were made a month ago were incorporated into the draft. A new item came up—what happens to the faculty that gives birth in the summer? It was felt that it wasn’t fair to give the same conditions to the summer births. Contracts have to be signed in the spring saying that faculty will be back in the fall. It was referred to as the “un-contracted” period. It was felt that the document will lose its flexibility if things keep being added. The policy has been worked on for two years and needs to be put in place. The FAC is satisfied with this document at this point and want to put it on the October Academic Senate agenda. It will be reviewed in two years. The question was asked why we need the policy. L. Yungblut stated that the administration wants a policy in place for recruitment of female faculty. The University also wants this in place because it may bring legal issues of why some people get better packages. It is an Ad Hoc policy and we need a policy. H. Gerla said there is no maternity leave policy at this time—it is medical leave.

Student Academic Policies Committee (SAPC): N. Buchino stated that the committee has not met.

Calendar Committee: S. Dandaneau indicated that the committee was investigating nationally prominent Course Schedule Paradigm reforms. He will provide an update to the Academic Senate.

- *Open meeting with Provost—update* – F. Pestello wants to do this the first hour of the December Academic Senate meeting. The November meeting is really a budget meeting. We will get back to this when we talk about the December meeting agenda.

- *Dry campus issue* — This was discussed in the September Academic Senate meeting. Someone also suggested closing the Pub. It was mentioned that there is a colleague that teaches a wine tasting class. This issue was tabled.
6. New Business:
- *Evening class schedule* – J. Rapp asked about reconsidering the evening class schedule, but it needs to be discussed with N. Buchino and she had to leave early for a meeting.
 - *Set agenda for October 29 Senate meeting* – It was stated that the University leaders need support from deans and faculty. It was felt that the Senate is losing its voice. The faculty does not understand the University’s serious position and what is at stake, because they have not been told, based on the Enrollment Management information. We need to get better are what we are doing and determine what direction we are going. It was stated that there is a lack of communication between the leadership and the faculty. It was mentioned that the first year experience is an issue because the second, third, fourth and graduate levels are being neglected. Communication is one issue and misalignment of where we are going with budget. Executive committee reports that there have been some concerns about inadequate communication and consultation with the faculty. It was stated that the faculty feels the ELC “tells” them instead of “asking” them. It was suggested that what was learned at the last ELC meeting should be presented as a report. The faculty needs to be better engaged regarding strategic planning, and they need to know there are some concerns. It was suggested that an example of a policy or issue is needed. While University benefit contributions have increased significantly, S. Dandaneau underscored the fact that the faculty have not had a significant across-the-board pay raise in 13-odd years. It was suggested that we need to focus on the academic picture. There have been tremendous investments in buildings and IT. There was a \$3 million surplus and some programs were introduced 15 months ago, but the departments had to cover this. It was felt that things are being decentralized. We need to keep insisting that our core business is academics. It was mentioned that the initiatives are being driven top down. J. Rapp asked members to send any thoughts to him about how this might be relayed at the Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Wilson