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2005-09-06 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved Minutes of the ECAS
Second Regular Meeting – Academic Year 2005-2006
Tuesday, September 6, 2005
1:30 p.m. Ploeger Conference Suite, St. Mary's Hall 113-B
Presiding: Dr. David Biers, President Academic Senate

Senators Present: J. Biddle, D. Biers, P. Eloë, H. Gerla, S. Hileman, R. Penno, J. Rapp, J. Saliba, T. Thompson

Absent (Excused): J. O’Gorman, F. Pestello, K. Huelsman

1. Opening Prayer:

- Kathleen Henderson provided the opening prayer.

2. Roll Call: Nine of the twelve members of the ECAS were in attendance.

- Nine of the twelve members of the ECAS were in attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes of the April 25, 2005 meeting of the Academic Senate were approved as written.
- The minutes of the August 24 meeting of ECAS will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. Announcements: President Biers

➤ **Filling Vacancies on the Academic Senate:**

- Normal procedure to fill vacancies on the Senate has been exhausted consequently President Biers has been working to fill the vacancies on the Senate. A Humanities representative must still be selected and appointed. Craig Letavec agreed to fill the vacated part-time representative position. Bob Penno has been appointed to the General Ed committee as both the Senate and Engineering representative. Dave Darrow will fill the other Senate position on the General Ed committee. Two student representatives are still needed. And, a Science representative is also needed to round out this committee.

➤ **DPT:**

- President Biers updated the committee on the advances made from SOEAP to address the concerns raised at last meeting regarding sequencing of this proposal. The full education faculty will be consulted not necessarily in the order which is typically used due to the need to fast track the proposal. (Attempts were made during the summer to consult with member of SOEAP.) The sequence which ECAS agreed to follow with regard to this proposal is: 1) Program development plan presumably will be approved by the Graduate leadership council; 2) the PDP will then go to RAGS for comment; 3) Tom Eggemeier will receive comments from RAGS and make revisions as needed to the full proposal; 4) the revised proposal will then go back to SOEAP before 5) returning to the Senate for approval.
- **Discussion:** A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the procedures and policies enacted to present this opportunity. Biddle asks what do we (as a Senate) require before taking any action? P. Eloë shared his experience regarding sequencing the ME degree. He cautions ECAS to recognize the inherent challenges of trying to gain approval of a draft which will eventually have to work through various levels of the University and the state for review and approval. Again, Biddle raises the concern for ECAS of a matter of “process” and what ECAS will review. J. Saliba recommends that ECAS could serve to provide “checks and balance” on such processes. H. Gerla suggests that ECAS goal should be to defend policy. President Biers stated that this can be accomplished by not putting this issue forward on the Senate docket until final approval has been gained from the faculty involved.
- **Outcome:** ECAS will not vote on the plan until the SOEAP has had an opportunity to accept the plan.

ECAS will request an informational presentation to the full Senate on the DPT this term.

➤ **Future meetings of ECAS:**

- All future meetings of ECAS for AY05-06 will be held in SM 113B.

5. Old Business:

➤ **Committee reports –**

- **AAC** – J. Biddle reported that he has met with Paul Benson on the humanities cluster review. They have a tentative plan on how they will evaluate thematic clusters this year. Benson shared a concern with the October 15 deadline laid out for them by ECAS.
- **FAC** – No report.
- **SAC** – No report.

6. New Business

➤ **Committee on Evaluation of Faculty Teaching**

- **Issue:** President Biers introduced Steve Wilhoit who provided an update and information on the current projects being undertaken by the Committee on Evaluation of Faculty Teaching.
- **Discussion:** S. Wilhoit shared with the group the progress of the committee in studying and reviewing current and best practices of teaching evaluation at UD. As this committee reviews the Senate document which addresses faculty evaluation they expect to address issues of implementation. There are challenges to how and what UD currently does with the information collected. Faculty evaluations are predominately used for administrative purposes at UD. The Committee is finding that we are not as strong at using these instruments as a developmental tool for faculty and/or the assessment of student learning outcome. The committee expects to finish the faculty development report and present a formally endorsed report to the community at large by the end of this term. A FES will be presented on the findings later this term. In addition the committee will present a series of workshops on how to assess student outcomes this term.

➤ **Agenda for September 16 Meeting of the Academic Senate:**

- Update and possible discussion on the Marianist Committee – Benson & Morton (40 minutes)
- Presentation on North Central review – Trick (15 minutes)
- Presentation on directions the University is moving --- Pestello (TBD)
- Committee reports

➤ **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Henderson