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2006-10-02 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
October 2, 2006
St. Mary's 113 B; 10:00 AM

Present: J. Biddle, D. Biers (presiding), D. Courte, P. Johnson, W. Lockett, M. Morton, J. O'Gorman, R. Penno, F. Pestello, M. Schmitz, R. Wells

Guests: J. Farrelly (Faculty Board),

Roll Call:

Eleven of the twelve members of the Committee were present.

Prayer:

D. Biers opened the meeting with a prayer from Jane Goodall.

Approval of Minutes:

September 18, 2006 moved and seconded, approved

September 25, 2006 moved and seconded, approved

Announcements:

- D. Biers announced student appointments for the committee on General Education and Competencies had been contacted. They wanted further information. After consultation with Associate Dean Benson, they will respond to the invitation.
- D. Biers announced that he had provided the agenda of the most recent Provost Council meeting to the Executive Committee. He will continue to do this on a regular basis.
- F. Pestello announced that the retention rate for last year's first-year class is 90%. He thanked all who had worked to support the needs of such a large class.

Old Business:

The following committee reports were received:

- J. Biddle reported for the Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate. They have appointed a sub-committee to work on DOC 06-09. They anticipate a report on the first part of the charge from the Provost by November 30. They hope to have recommendations for consideration at the January meeting of the Academic Senate. They have charged the Committee on General Education and Competencies to develop a status report on the general competencies. They have asked for this to be completed by Nov. 30. They have also asked the committee to develop a statement on the conceptual relationship of the general education requirements and the general competency requirements.
- D. Biers reported for the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate. They met on Friday to discuss a new draft of the background check policy. J. Untener met by phone with them. They suggested a few changes, especially in relation to part-time faculty, and requested a table of cases or examples of what might constitute grounds for a denial to

hire and what might be considered unimportant. It is expected that this will be ready for consideration by the Academic Senate in December.

- D. Courte reported for the Student Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate. They are progressing on the development of the Honor Code.
- D. Biers reported for the Calendar committee. The Provost Council will be discussing the scheduling of Orientation on the Calendar on November 28. The Calendar Committee will bring a recommendation to the Executive Committee prior to that date.
- D. Biers reported that the Calendar Committee has requested the Executive Committee consider approving a one-time change in the schedule of examination week for the WI07 term. The current schedule has classes ending on Wednesday, four study days, and a full week of examinations. The proposal is to have one study day, begin examinations on Friday, have two study days, and complete examination on Thursday. The Executive Committee reviewed the Constitution and noted that a one-time change could be done through the Executive Committee and the processes outlined in the Constitution without going to the full Academic Senate. Members were concerned that this should only be done for exceptional reasons. The Executive Committee declined the recommendation and asked that the Calendar Committee bring a proposal for several years through appropriate processes including the Academic Policies Standing Committee by mid-October (moved O’Gorman, second Penno, unanimous approval).
- D. Biers reported that the Provost committee working on the review of teaching was close to completing its work. They have identified a conflict with the Post-Tenure Review Document in the overlap area of promotion to Full Professor.

New Business:

- The report of the Provost Committee working on a University Promotion and Tenure committee was discussed. The original charge from the Provost has been received and will be attached to the document. D. Biers consulted with T. Lasley about adding additional paragraphs of rationale to the document. After discussion, the Committee decided unanimously to combine the charge and the document as provided, number this as a document, and move the document to standing committees.
- Discussion on the “Statement of Philosophy of the Academic Profession” began. R. Wells reported that the statement is grounded in current documents and is a reaffirmation of the orientation presented there. A number of questions were raised, but no decision was reached. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Academic Senate Agenda Items for October 13:

The Committee discussed the agenda for the October meeting of the Academic Senate. It was decided that this meeting would be an open forum discussion of Documents 06-09 and 06-10. D. Biers will see if a larger room can be scheduled for the meeting and will provide information to faculty and students about the discussion. He will also work with the chairpersons of the standing committees to develop the process for coordinating the work of the three committees on these documents.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Johnson, Secretary