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2008-10-27 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
October 27, 2008
St. Mary's 113 B; 1:00 PM

Present: P. Benson, D. Biers, G. Doyle, H. Gauder, N. Jolani, R. Kearns (presiding), L. Laubach, A. Reichle, J. Saliba, A. Seielstad

Absent: D. Darrow, J. Greenlee

Guest: J. Farrelly (Faculty Board), T. Westendorf (Registrar)

Roll Call: Ten of twelve members of the committee were present.

Prayer: Bob Kearns opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Postponed

Old Business

Academic Policies Committee – Open forums on the Common Academic Program begin Oct 28.

Faculty Affairs Committee – A working draft on the Maternity Leave Policy is being reviewed.

Student Academic Policies Committee – The SAPC is discussing the Student Assessment of Instruction Form. They are not happy with the present form, nor the suggested less questions/more comments form. The ECAS discussed the teaching assessment policy.

1. A new form should be developed based on the advice of experts.
2. Students do not know the value of the present form. Need to inform students.
3. Most questions are ignored by administrators. Apparently different departments use different questions. Some departments do not use assessment results.
4. Might try online assessment
5. Might try verbal response only – no quantitative measures.
6. Might consider several Master Teachers to evaluate classroom activities.
7. A good assessment by students does not necessarily indicate instructor is covering enough details at an appropriate level. This could have an effect on follow-on courses.
8. A script is needed to inform students how to treat the assessment.

New Business

Drop a Course Without a W After the Fifth Week

Tom Westendorf presented data showing that in a survey of 404 universities, 80% had a policy of dropping a course without a W no later than the third week of school. He also checked Financial Aid and Federal Reporting – there would not be a problem if the dropping without a W was delayed until the fifth week. Finally, potential employers do not consider a few W's on a transcript to be a problem. It was pointed out that at a very few schools dropping a course is not allowed, and at a very few schools dropping at any time is allowed. Without a vote, the consensus of the ECAS was that revising the present policy was not worth any more discussion.

Faculty Association Exchange

The Faculty Board, ECAS and the Provost office is sponsoring a discussion on encouraging faculty service at UD. Several speakers will present their views on service with the hope of furthering more faculty involvement on UD committees. The meeting is noon to 1:30 pm on November 18 in the east ballroom, KU.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, November 3, 2008 at 1:00 pm in St. Mary's 113 B;

Respectfully Submitted By:

George R. Doyle, Jr.

Secretary of the Senate