

12-12-2014

2014-12-12 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
December 12, 2014
SM113B, 9:00-10:30 AM

Present: Phil Anloague, Paul Benson, Erin Brown, Jim Dunne, Harry Gerla, Linda Hartley, Emily Hicks, Carissa Krane, Laura Leming, Ed Mykytka

Absent: Kathy Webb, Dominique Yantko

Guests: Corinne Daprano (Faculty Board)

Opening prayer/meditation: L. Leming opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 5, 2014, ECAS meeting were unanimously approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- Next ECAS meeting is Friday, December 19, 2014, 9:00-10:30 am, St. Mary's 113B
- Academic Senate meeting TODAY, Friday, December 12, 2014, 3:00-5:00 pm, KU East Ballroom
- Next ELC meeting is Monday, December 15, 2014, 9:30-11:30 am, President's Suite, KU 316
 - Agenda items include the January Board of Trustees meeting and the ELC charter
 - H. Gerla, J. McCombe unable to attend
- Next Academic Senate meeting is Friday, January 16, 2015, 3:00-5:00 pm, KU East Ballroom
 - Coincides with Board of Trustees meeting in D.C.—will Deans be in town?
- ECAS meetings next semester will continue to be Fridays, 9:00-10:30 am, St. Mary's 113B
- Academic Senate Parliamentarian—Law student, Zack Goit will be introduced at today's Academic Senate meeting
- C. Krane will remind Senators today to complete the mandatory "Unlawful Harassment Prevention" training
 - Discussion about the unfortunate timing (at the end of the semester) and vague subject line of the email from Workplace Answers. One concern is that faculty may have already deleted the emails with the personalized link. Provost's Office was also surprised by timing and will communicate through deans and chairs the importance of completing the mandatory training
- Board chairperson, Steve Cobb will discuss 1st steps in presidential search with C. Krane soon; faculty involvement is expected.

Reports from Committees:

Academic Policies Committee: E. Mykytka reported that the committee met on Tuesday, December 9th to continue the discussion about the priorities that are used by the University's Calendar Committee in setting the academic calendar. A draft of the revised calendar priorities will be discussed today at the Academic Senate meeting. E. Mykytka and J. Dunne provided a draft questionnaire about the academic importance and length of the January intersession, a potential week-long Spring break and the tradeoff between them. The committee plans to survey the full-time faculty in January (after the shortest

intersession in recent years). Suggestions to improve the instrument were discussed, including the addition of a question that would specifically focus on the value of scheduling a potential week-long spring break to incorporate St. Patrick's Day. P. Benson suggested that the preamble be expanded to explain the relationship between the APC and the Calendar Committee. The APC will contract with Richard Stock of Business Research Group to administer the survey; P. Benson agreed to have the Provost's Office fund the cost of the survey. E. Mykytka reported that the APC also is recommending that (a) the academic units and other relevant offices be consulted to catalog specific activities that were scheduled for the January 2015 intersession as well as other potential activities that might be curtailed if the intersession was to be shortened in future years; and (b) students also be consulted via their SGA representatives on the Senate with respect to intersession and a potential week-long spring break. E. Mykytka also reported that the APC addressed the possibility of scheduling the May commencement exercises to occur later than current practice but did not pursue the option in depth as it became apparent that doing so would substantially impact the Summer term; significant study of the potential advantages, disadvantages, and campus-wide impacts would be needed before any recommendations could be made in this regard.

Faculty Affairs Committee: H. Gerla reported that the committee had not met since the last ECAS meeting.

Student Academic Policies Committee: L. Leming reported that the committee had not met since the last ECAS meeting. J. McCombe has been invited to the January meeting of the Graduate Leadership Council executive committee to discuss revisions to the Academic Misconduct Policy.

New Business:

Report from APC/Calendar Committee: See the APC report.

Academic Scheduling: C. Krane thanked L. Hartley and P. Anloague for their work on this issue. The task force's executive summary and slides have been shared with the Academic Senate for the December meeting. ECAS has also received several other documents produced by this task force. A proposed course schedule was sent out last week by the Provost's Office with an email from C. Krane. ECAS discussed various options for how to introduce and facilitate this afternoon's discussion on this topic. P. Benson has a handout summarizing the issues to help set the stage. He stated that total agreement would be impossible because there is a fundamental conflict between faculty work-life balance and the administration of student schedules. Several questions were raised about the Senate's role in this process—communication, consultation, formal vote, etc. It is unclear, but feedback about the sample schedule is vitally important. E. Mykytka stated that the feedback he had received centered on the conflict between the timing of 75 minute courses and the 150 minute classes for professors who teach undergraduates and graduate students. P. Benson stated that he is aware of the problem. E. Hicks pointed out that the proposed schedule for evening graduate classes (150 minutes) appeared to be flawed. Although the start times are listed as the same as the current schedule, the class periods are five minutes longer than the current schedule. P. Benson stated that the new schedule allowed for a 10 minute break within the class period.

Review of Administrators: The proposed policy prepared by P. Benson was discussed. J. Dunne stated that administrators were members of the faculty who have been chosen to provide important administrative, leadership, and decision-making functions and that as such, faculty should have input during annual reviews as well as on developmental and reappointment reviews. P. Benson stated that

faculty input into annual reviews may be too time-consuming to be feasible. C. Krane stated that the climate survey showed that there was a disconnect between administration and faculty on this issue and she did not view the proposed policy as changing current practice. P. Benson disagreed, saying that it does reflect changes from current practice. One example would be with the developmental reviews. He also stated that faculty input into evaluations can help alleviate some, but not all issues surfaced by the climate survey. He explained that there is a fundamental difference between faculty who have tenure and therefore some measure of job security and administrators who serve “at will.” C. Krane stated that Deans and the Provost need to be cognizant of faculty input during evaluations. P. Benson will start the discussion at this afternoon’s Senate meeting to get Senator’s feedback on the proposed policy. J. Dunne suggested that references to 360 evaluations be removed since they are just one type of developmental evaluation and P. Benson agreed.

Information Literacy Task Force: This issue was tabled for lack of time.

Old Business:

UNRC Update: Nothing to report.

UNRC Membership—Next Steps: C. Krane reported that no Senators had volunteered to serve. E. Hicks announced that she is stepping down as UNRC Chair and stepping off the committee as of January 1, 2015. P. Benson stated that the work of the UNRC was important, especially with the presidential search coming soon. This will be announced at today’s Senate meeting. C. Daprano suggested that a member of Faculty Board be on the UNRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Hicks

Work in Progress

Task	Source	Previously assigned	To	Work due	Due
Consultation	ECAS	ECAS	ECAS	Open communication	ongoing
Instructional staff titles	Provost’s office		FAC		
Information Literacy			ECAS	Charge	
AS Constitution revision	ECAS		ECAS		
Dismissal for academic dishonesty	SBA	SAPC	Deans’ Council		
Policy for academic certificate programs			APC		
Nondiscrimination & anti-harassment policy	Legal		FAC, SAPC	Comments/recommendations	

Review of Faculty Hearing Committees' by-laws	ECAS		FAC		
Academic scheduling task force	ECAS		ECAS	Report	12/15/14
Review ECAS/Senate representation on Elections Committee	ECAS		FAC		
Review ECAS/Senate representation on UNRC	ECAS		FAC		
Tasks ongoing					
CAP oversight	Senate		APC	Hear monthly reports	
UNRC			ECAS	Hear monthly reports	