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2017-02-24 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved Minutes
Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
24 February 2017
1:00-2:30 pm, SM 113B

Present: Dori Spaulding, Lee Dixon, Deo Eustace, Joseph Valenzano (Chair), Carissa Krane, Corinne Daprano, Mateo Chavez, Emily Hicks, Mark Jacobs, Jason Pierce, Paul Benson

Excused: Andrea Seielstad

Guests: Steve Wilhoit, Deb Bickford, David Wright

Announcements:

- Special session of the Academic Senate, Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 3:30-5:30 pm
- Next ECAS meeting is Friday, March 10, 2017, 1:00-2:30 pm
- Next ELC meeting is Monday, March 20, 2017, 10:30-noon
- Next regular Academic Senate meeting is Friday, March 17, 2017, 3:30-5:30 pm

17 February 2017 ECAS Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from last ECAS meeting were approved with no corrections.

New Business:

Information Literacy Task Force Next Steps:

The committee reviewed the six recommendations in the task force's report and discussed next steps. J. Valenzano and E. Hicks will draft a charge of next steps for a group (yet to be determined).

Discussion of SET Comments: (Deb Bickford, David Wright, & Steve Wilhoit)

Questions have been raised about students' inappropriate and potentially discriminatory or harassing written comments about faculty. The software vendor has a process to track respondents. However, Senate document DOC 2014-02 is very specific about the importance of the anonymity of students. Alternative actions were discussed, including reminding students about the nondiscrimination policy and encouraging faculty to set aside class time for evaluations and have someone (not the instructor) verbally remind students. The issue of low participation was also discussed. Best practice is to have students fill them out during class. Jana Bennett is currently researching student evaluations of teaching and their impact on faculty. She will be invited to present her preliminary findings at the April Academic Senate meeting.

Discussion about Code of Regulations:

J. Valenzano will send a letter to Senators detailing ECAS's findings regarding our exploration of the concerns regarding the University's Code of Regulations raised last semester when President Spina spoke visited the Senate.

Planning for Academic Senate Visioning Participation: (Joe Valenzano)

A special session of the Academic Senate will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, from 3:30-5:30 pm to discuss strategic visioning. Senators received a survey for them to indicate whether they will be attending. Seating assignments for Senators will be randomized. Separate tables will be provided for guests. Members of the steering committee will provide context for discussion.

Faculty/Student Petition Regarding Sanctuary Campus:

A campus working group for immigration issues has been established. Amy Anderson, Tim Kao, and task force members will be invited to an upcoming Senate meeting.

Old Business:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Hicks