

Minutes of Faculty Senate
Committee on Nominations and Appointments
Nov. 19, 2010

Present: Vince Anfara, Chair
James Carbone, Air Force ROTC
Cathy Cochran, Law
James Larson, UTIA
Beauvais Lyons, A&S—Hum.
Michael Sims, Vet Med
Conrad Plaut, A&S—Natural Sci.

Absent: Joanne Hall, Nursing
Nathalie Hristov, Libraries
Norma Mertz, EHHS
Harold Roth, Business Admin
Rupy Sawhney, Engineering
Edgar Stach, Arch & Design
Sam Swan, Comm & Info
Yang Zhong, A&S—Social Sci.
John Kootz, A&S—Natural Sci.
Matthew Theriot, Social Work
William Hofmeister, UTSI

The meeting of the Nominations and Appointment Committee began at 1:00PM in 220University Center.

Vince Anfara will send minutes of the meeting to all who were not present. The committee members are all caucus chairs for their various colleges plus the President-Elect of Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Secretary.

Vince Anfara read from the *Faculty Senate Bylaws* about the responsibilities of the committee. Each caucus chair is responsible for finding two candidates for each senator from his or her caucus who is rotating off the Senate at the end of this academic year. A senator can be reelected one time. After a second consecutive term, a senator must wait a full 3 years before being re-elected to the Senate. The rationale for this strict rotation appears to be to spread the leadership experience. Also, the system of term limits helps diversify individual faculty member's service work and enhance the prospect of a diversity of viewpoints at Senate and Senate committee meetings.

Serving on the Senate helps faculty members see the bigger picture of campus and University affairs, not just the affairs of their departments or colleges. Some campus and University leadership positions have been filled by former faculty senators. A handout indicating those Senators whose terms of office are expiring in 2011 was distributed.

Action: The caucus chairs must have their nomination process complete and results sent to Vince Anfara by February 13 (The Bylaws state that nominations are due by February 15, but time is needed to process all of the nominations from across all of the colleges/units.)

Members present discussed why it was sometimes difficult to find nominees. All present felt that the Senate was not prominent in the consciousness of the faculty. How could the Senate communicate better with the faculty so they could see the importance of being a Senator? The Senate Newsletter does not seem to be sufficient. No one remembered getting a copy of it. A couple said it was available in at the Senate website. Deeken mentioned current communications plan. That there is an article in *Tennessee Today* with a link to longer notes. In general, no one seemed to read *Tennessee Today* frequently. The message is not getting out.

Action: Anfara will draft a letter listing the responsibilities of Senators, including communication to the areas they represent. That message will be sent to all Senators either by Anfara or Heminway.

The criteria for election to the Senate and the responsibilities of the position were also read from the *Faculty Senate Bylaws*. The committee members need to be aware of these as they solicit nominees from their caucuses. The *Bylaws* call for secret ballot elections. The Office of Research will create electronic ballots and send them to faculty members entitled to vote or the caucuses can create their own secret balloting procedure. A unit may either use the Office of Research or self-administered ballots, at its discretion.

Vince Anfara quoted from the *Faculty Senate Bylaws* about the requirements for running for the Senate, which include dealing with the academic status of the candidate. The name of each candidate and a short description of why he or she is qualified and running (i.e., the nominee's "platform") should appear on the ballot. "Write in" is a valid candidate. The caucus chairs are to keep Vince Anfara apprised of progress between now and February 13.

The discussion turned to how to get faculty to vote as well as to run. Lyons described how he asks the Dean or Department Heads in his area to send a note to all faculty. This shows that the College supports Faculty Senate works. Contact from that level has been more effective than just sending out a note from the caucus chair to the appropriate faculty.

Action: Joan Heminway or Vince Anfara will send a letter to the Department Heads asking them to distribute a note expressing their support for Senate involvement by faculty members.

This committee is also responsible for finding nominees for Faculty Senate President-Elect. Qualifications were read from the *Faculty Senate Bylaws*. There is no prohibition for a former president being nominated again for President-Elect.

Vince Anfara circulated a list of names of persons already found to meet the requirements for President-Elect. Those present made comments on some and added some names to the list. Diversity was discussed as a desired attribute for the next President-Elect.

Action: After discussion, Vince Anfara will send a letter (not email) to everyone on the list telling them they are being considered for this role. The letter will be sent on Faculty Senate stationary. That will be followed up with a phone call and an invitation to meet with Vince Anfara (and perhaps Joan Heminway).

There was a discussion about why most people chose not to run. Some of the benefits of being Faculty Senate President include: it is an honor bestowed by peers and it is a chance to leave a personal legacy. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate page should have names, dates served, and (if possible) pictures of all past Faculty Senate Presidents. The position might be considered more desirable if we added a little more “pomp and circumstance” to meetings.

Action: Vince Anfara will work with Sharronne on getting the Senate web page changed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.