

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Executive Committee
August 29, 2005

Members present: Deseriee Kennedy, Sam Jordan, Denise Barlow, Carolyn Hodges, Laura Jolly, Nancy Howell, Sally McMillan, David Patterson, Thomas Handler, Stephanie Ohnesorg, Kula Misra, George Dodds, Louis Gross, Candace White, Gretchen Whitney, Loren Crabtree

Guests: Anne Mayhew

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of April 18, 2005, were approved.

III. REPORTS

President's Report (D. Kennedy)

Kennedy said she would like to use the Executive Committee as an advisory group, a line of communication and as a group to coordinate the various Faculty Senate committees' activities. She next thanked C. White and other past-presidents for their efforts. She reminded everyone that the chancellor has provided office space and equipment for the Faculty Senate. There also will be a 50%-time secretary. Central administration will help upgrade the Faculty Senate Web site.

Kennedy then expressed her hope to be able to improve communication "across borders." She noted that the chancellor's Website includes the strategic plan for the campus and expressed her hope that the Senate could serve as not only a "watch dog" but also as an advocate for the faculty. She hopes efforts for a new diversity policy and a new Chapter Seven in the Faculty Handbook can be completed this year. Other items for consideration include the function of department heads and evaluation of and salary adjustments for faculty, as well as working for greater autonomy for the chancellor.

Chancellor's Report (L. Crabtree)

Crabtree said that administrators and faculty leaders must work together to deal with external elements. He noted that the two groups tend to work in different time frames, but have similar goals. He said that administrators and faculty on committees must work for the general good rather than special interests.

Crabtree reported next that a department head manual is being created and there will be a retreat for heads to go through it. He noted that getting a sexual-diversity statement in the general diversity statement remains a goal. He also said that the question of whether enrollment should grow must be considered and observed that a capital campaign is under way. A bequest of \$4.4 million for this campus has been received; much of it to be used to improve graduate stipends and the remainder is to go to scholarships. Crabtree also reported that improving the administration is a major goal, as is finding recurring funding for research.

In response to a question from C. White, Crabtree said that faculty would be involved in looking at the matter of enrollment growth and deciding whether the institution is capable of growing. L. Gross said that many department heads have complained to him that they are not allowed to be heads. He gave as one example the rules for merit raises. Crabtree, D. Barlow, and A. Mayhew objected to an assertion that department heads are not allowed to carry over funds. The rules for such carry-overs will be provided.

In response to a question from K. Misra, Crabtree said that he is concerned about reallocating space and creating new space to meet current needs and to meet future needs. In response to a comment from D. Patterson, Crabtree said the new department head manual will contain policies and examples of various documents heads often use. Kennedy said that there has been faculty involvement in making revisions. Crabtree said the manual and many policies should be viewed as living, changing documents; he believes a proposed policy on which there is 80% agreement should be implemented and the other 20% worked out afterwards.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Chapter Seven, Faculty Handbook (D. Kennedy)

Gross moved changing "academic year" to "calendar year" in paragraph B.4. Barlow and Mayhew said they believe that paragraph B.4. and possibly paragraph B.5. are not stated correctly. They also think there are fiscal policies that govern the topics of these paragraphs. They will check and report back. Misra then seconded the motion. After more carefully reading paragraphs B.4. and B.5., Mayhew said she believes the motion by Gross actually corrects the problem. The motion was approved without objection. Gross then moved, and White seconded, that the revised Chapter Seven be taken to the Faculty Senate. The motion carried without opposition.

Manual for Faculty Evaluations (D. Kennedy)

Kennedy noted that the manual is very close to being finished.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Faculty Senate Retreat

Kennedy encouraged committee chairpersons to think about how their plans and activities will dovetail with the aims of the retreat and an overall Faculty Senate agenda.

Information Technology (G. Whitney)

Whitney reported that more work has been done on the Acceptable Use policy and it is now in the Office of the General Counsel.

She then reported that four tools for VoIP were tested this summer in four institutes. She also noted concerns about the recently announced standardized e-mail system, the apparent recent selection of platform tools, the absence of faculty input in the apparent decisions about these matters and the general lack of information. Gross reported that he had sent an e-mail to Crabtree to suggest that all options be listed for department heads and deans and that the handling of costs for each be explained.

Crabtree said everyone is aware of the enormity of the task and that OIT expects to shoulder the majority of the cost. He said he would try to find out exactly what is going on. Mayhew

said it is very important for the campus to agree on a limited number of systems to be supported. She also said that final platform decisions for VoIP have not been made.

Faculty Senate agenda 2005-2006 (D. Kennedy)

Kennedy asked for suggestions and noted that they could be made today, at the retreat, or any other time. Gross said a way needs to be found to get faculty input from several campuses into system decisions. Kennedy reported that some educational systems have system-wide committees with representatives from the different campuses. Kennedy, with unanimous approval, assigned the task of looking into the matter to Gross.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.