

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Executive Committee
October 3, 2005

Members present: Deseriee Kennedy, Sam Jordan, Laura Jolly, Denise Barlow, Anne Mayhew, Bob Rider, Catherine Luther, Carolyn Hodges, Gretchen Whitney, Nancy Howell, India Lane, Thomas Handler, Candace White, Sally McMillan, Kula Misra, David Patterson, Bruce MacLennan, Stefanie Ohnesorg, George Dodds, Beauvais Lyons, Lou Gross

I. CALL TO ORDER

D. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 29, 2005, were approved with the addition of "for VoIP" after "decisions" in the last sentence under Information Technology and with the change from "classes" to "institutes" in the first sentence of the second paragraph of the same section.

III. REPORTS

President's Report (D. Kennedy)

Kennedy said that she attended the retreat for department heads and deans. There will be an opportunity for faculty input into revisions of the new Manual for Department Heads. The value of certain Faculty Senate functions was mentioned several times at the retreat. Kennedy then reminded committee chairs that she needs their proposed goals and schedules for meeting those goals.

Chancellor's Report (A. Mayhew for L. Crabtree)

Mayhew said that Crabtree has been involved in discussions with representatives of the Semester at Sea program. She then reported that she has been working on efficient use of facilities. The loss of Glocker and the increased enrollment have made efficient use of classroom space extremely important. Several issues have arisen. One is the question of who opens a classroom in the morning. Another is who stocks the room and takes care of the equipment. A proposed protocol will be distributed at the next meeting of deans. Mayhew said she needs to hear from faculty what the real issues are and faculty need to understand that classes must be taught throughout the day.

In response to a question from L. Gross, Mayhew and D. Barlow said that the Facilities Fee Task Force under C. Woods has replaced the Classroom Committee under F. Julian. They also said that a new classroom scheduling program may allow faculty to request classroom formats. In response to another question from Gross, Mayhew said that some new faculty positions are being provided to meet enrollment pressures. Deans of colleges getting new positions have been informed; the total number of position is five or six.

Mayhew next noted that, in order to have a 13% tuition increase, the administration gladly agreed to support the Tennessee Pledge scholarships. After setting aside funds for unavoidable increases, such as more costly utilities and dealing with several other matters, very little remained for hiring new faculty.

In response to a question from D. Patterson, Mayhew said that a decision has not been made, but it is likely that most of the \$4 million available from a recent bequest for improving graduate stipends will go to the sciences. In response to another question from Gross, Mayhew said that deans have to discuss reallocations of faculty positions with the chancellor's office. She agreed that a ten-year history of faculty positions and student population would be provided.

Gross next asked about the honors program. Mayhew said its funding and the number of students have not changed much in recent years. It is not possible to fund an honors college with the current budget. Departmental honors programs will be encouraged.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Information Technology (G. Whitney)

Whitney reminded everyone that a draft Acceptable Use Policy came to the Faculty Senate last spring and was returned to the committee. A proposed revision has been created and she hopes it can be finalized and approved this year. She turned next to a report (distributed at the meeting) titled "Synchronous Learning Tools Evaluation." Four tools were selected for final testing. They do roughly the same things, but in different ways. Whitney said she asked the IT Committee to read the report and be prepared to discuss it at its next meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Changes (L. Gross)

Gross noted the proposed changes concerning the Student Affairs Committee. Gross accepted as a friendly amendment the suggestion to change "Student Government Association" to "student government organizations" in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the proposed revision.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Tangible Research Property Policy & Research Data Policy Drafts (T. Handler)

Handler briefly described the proposed policies (distributed with the agenda). He expects to look at similar policies at other universities. Gross noted that he had provided extensive comments on an earlier version and they do not appear to have been addressed in these new versions. There were several comments about the lack of clarity concerning the matter of whether the policy is system-based or campus-based. The Faculty Senate's expected role also is not known. It was decided it is premature to ask faculty to comment on the documents. B. Lyons noted that taking the proposed policies to the Faculty Senate almost surely would result in censure and might get the attention of the creators of the policies. Handler suggested that there should be suggestions for improvement as well as censure. It was decided not to take the policies to the Faculty Senate at this time.

Athletics Committee (COIA Meeting) (K. Misra)

Misra reported that COIA will have a national meeting in early December. He asked whether Faculty Senate funds should be used to send a representative. C. White spoke in favor of sending someone. Handler spoke against. Lyons moved that a portion of the shared-governance fund be used to leverage additional funding from the chancellor's office in order to send someone. White suggested trying to obtain help from other sources, too. The motion was approved with one nay vote.

Teaching Awards (I. Lane)

Lane called attention to a memo (distributed at the meeting) on the procedure and timeframe for the Chancellor's Outstanding Teaching Awards. Comments may be sent to Lane or Kennedy.

Proposed Bylaws Change (L. Gross)

Gross said there has been a request to have a library representative on the IT Committee. There was agreement with the idea. Gross turned next to the question of whether there is a need for an Information Officer. White noted that recent immediate past-presidents have exercised an oversight role for the Faculty Senate Website. Lyons noted that the president is handling the task this year and said that is an efficient way for the president to be sure committees are keeping on-task. White agreed. Gross noted next that the Professional Development Committee is not extant this year. Lyons said he believes the Nominating Committee or the Executive Committee should have the authority to decide if a certain committee will not function during a particular year. It was noted that there has been some difficulty identifying tasks for the committee that were not being done elsewhere. B. Rider asked for information on where various aspects of professional development are based. It was decided that the committee should be retained.

Proposed Meeting Dates (2006-2007) (L. Gross)

Gross noted that the proposed dates for Faculty Senate meetings, Executive Committee meetings and the retreat were distributed at the meeting. The calendar was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.