University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from April 1, 2003
Volume 39, Number 12

Present: Don Bredle, Ken De Meuse, Susan Harrison, Robert Hooper, Rose Jadack, Andrew Phillips, Cleo Powers, Connie Russell, Ronald Satz, Alex Smith, Todd Stephens, Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Jean Wilcox

Absent: Andrea Gapko, Donald Mash, Nick Smiar

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:02 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2003 in Schofield Hall, Room 202.

1. Minutes of March 4, 2003 approved as distributed

2. Review of tentative agenda for April 8, 2003 meeting of University Senate
   • Consensus reached to cancel meeting by moving agenda items (Student Senate Officer Introductions, Vice Chair Nominations, and first reading of Academic Staff Personnel Committee motion on deadline for promotion decision notification) to Senate meeting of April 22, 2003

3. Discussion of possible topics for Open Discussion on April 29, 2003
   • Consensus reached to cancel tentatively scheduled open discussion

4. Continued Discussion of Changes in Election of Senate Officers and Faculty and Academic Staff Representatives
   • Goldenrod handout contains proposed changes to Handbook language
     • Shifts details of process to bylaws; allows process to be revised without constitutional amendment
     • Election of representatives changed to opposite years so turnover does not occur all in same year
     • Requires Academic Staff Representative to be on Academic Staff Personnel Committee; does not require same of Faculty Representative
       • Faculty have other avenues for acquiring personnel experience, such as membership on department personnel committees
     • Not necessary to include duties of officers in handbook; can be in procedural notes or side document
       • May be better as side document so changes over time do not require major action
       • Increased duties for Vice Chair not to be instituted soon as chose not to request reappointment percentage at time of budget crunch
     • Since Faculty Representative now distinct from Senate Chair, committee discussed whether rep must be a senator
       • Would be unique in System if not – for all other institutions, either Vice Chair or Chair of Senate is rep
       • At rep’s meetings talk about global things with idea of returning and reporting to Senate
       • Could possibly elect rep from full faculty with rep then becoming ex officio senator; would require spring election
       • Is possible some exceptional faculty would not run because of four-year commitment to Senate
       • From academic staff perspective, would see campus-wide election as problematic because academic staff may not have experience, nor sense of shared governance if not involved
       • If elected globally, larger departments have more votes; in Senate, departments, regardless of size, have one vote, but may have a few additional at-large senators
         • Presumes department would have some reason to want it to go that way
       • Would enlarge pool for election from about 45 to about 450 faculty
       • Sometimes those elections based on name recognition
       • Eligibility would be open to more people, but would not necessarily be more open; nominating process for university-wide vacancies not clearly prescribed so vacancies not necessarily advertised widely
• How nominating committees work seen as separate problem
• With University Bulletin online may be easier to publish vacancies because don’t run out of space
• Could send out or put on ballot names and brief biographies of those running
• Elections run by Secretary of Faculty and Academic Staff out of Senate Office
• Academic Staff Representative Wilcox will talk to more academic staff to find out method they prefer
• Chair Harrison to send out how this would be reflected in language of constitution and bylaws

5. Miscellaneous Business - None

6. Open Forum
• Rumblings being heard about closing entire UW institution in northwestern Wisconsin stem from suggestion of legislator from southeastern Wisconsin
  • Probably referring to UW-Superior, but other campuses also mentioned
  • Not really talking about at state level because of access issues
  • Idea was mentioned in 1970s, did not go anywhere; do not expect it to now
• Another idea floating around (that also will not go anywhere) is technical colleges taking over general education courses
• Would like to put nominating process on future Executive Committee agenda
• Have continued interest in getting new people in shared governance process
• Always possibility of self-nomination
• Talked about hosting a governance day in early fall – send invitations and have food
• At last Academic Staff Representatives meeting in Madison, Margaret Lewis of University Relations noted legislators not hearing from individual faculty and staff from campuses
  • Next six weeks will be critical in budget process
  • What comes out of Joint Finance Committee probably will be budget
  • Need to be sending letters indicating what you do, what would happen to students if funding cut
  • United Council focusing attempts on significantly reducing tuition level
    • If tuition increases as proposed by governor not allowed, but budget cuts remain the same, would be significant impact and campus would be in deep trouble
    • Don’t assume legislature understands this
• Can be many reasons course not offered
  • If unavailability related to budget reductions, students need to know that and should be encouraged to contact their legislator
  • Campus to continue to utilize resources to balance student needs

7. Announcements - None

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate