The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:04 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 in Schofield Hall, Room 202.

1. Minutes of February 3, 2004 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   - Provost Satz welcomed back by committee

3. Review of tentative agenda for February 24, 2004 meeting of University Senate
   - Consensus to approve tentative agenda as distributed

4. Discussion of University Senate composition relative to current university demographics
   - In 1998, Senate membership set at approximately 10% of university faculty and academic staff members eligible to vote
     - Each department or unit with four or more members represented
     - Remaining faculty or academic staff members necessary to attain 10% in each category elected at-large
     - October frozen files to be examined every year to monitor changes
       - Executive Committee to recommend minor adjustments to University Senate Membership bylaw if more than 5% difference between Senate representation percentages and faculty and academic staff percentages
     - According to frozen files, percentages of voting faculty and academic staff on campus have changed just over 5%
       - However, several more units with four or more members now exist resulting in additional academic staff senators

Committee reached consensus to maintain Senate structure as written in bylaws and to continue monitoring annually.

   - Concern expressed about numbers from October 1998 to October 2003 showing a serious decline in number of faculty on campus
     - Chart duplicated and distributed showing number of persons in each voting code from 1998 to 2003
       - For faculty, voting code 1, those numbers went from 436 in 1998 to 380 in 2003
       - Numbers show net loss of over 50 faculty and net gain of 25 to 30 academic staff
     - Can be many reasons for changes in numbers
       - Finding at annual meetings with departments that many having difficulty filling vacant faculty positions
• Are failed searches, offers not being accepted, and retirements too late to conduct proper searches
• Some departments, where market very tight, starting to grow own faculty
• Some departments have commitment to academic staff doing good job
• Frozen file numbers include persons from all funding sources
  • Additional positions funded by auxiliary grants increase number of academic staff; do not occur at expense of faculty positions
• Numbers are head count, not FTE – all over 50% to be eligible to vote
• Lost 12 to 16 positions through all employment categories last year due to budget reductions
• Quality readjustments over years resulted in loss of FTE
• Occurring nationwide; nevertheless is ominous trend
  • Student population not decreasing at same rate
  • Some of those reasons also occurring in other years, so could be wash
  • Would like to see teachers in front of students in classroom
  • Nothing in current budget plan mandates reduction in faculty
  • Important for students and accreditation to keep faculty numbers up
  • Maybe should be using as springboard for discussion

5. Miscellaneous Business – None

6. Announcements
  • Academic staff forwarding names of Jean Wilcox and Andrea Gapko for System President Search and Screen Committee
  • Two faculty names, after confirmation, to be forwarded also

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate