

Minutes of the Executive Committee February 11, 2008

Present: Kassing, Phillips, Najjar, Lee, Lessow-Hurley, Meldal, Van Selst, Bros, McClory, Kaufman, Backer, Sivertsen, Von Till

Absent: Sigler, Henderson

Guests: Davis, Merdinger

1. The Consent Calendar was approved.
2. On-Line SOTEs:
 - a. Joan Merdinger and Brad Davis joined the Executive Committee to discuss how policies passed by the Academic Senate are affected by the new contract. The main issue is the need to have a formal “meet and confer” over any issue that affects the terms and conditions of employment.
 - b. The short-term issue is with the amendment to the on-line SOTE policy that was passed on the floor of the Senate mandating that on-line courses administer on-line SOTEs. The original proposal was reviewed informally approval by local CFA chapter president Liz Cara, but the final policy needs to be the subject of a meet and confer. The long-term issue is how the Senate will deal with policies with respect to union approval. It was recommended that CFA be on the distribution list for relevant committees. When appropriate, a meet and confer would take place after a policy is passed by the Senate and before the President signs it.
 - c. There was a discussion of shared governance and which body has discretion over professional standards. In all cases, the contract has precedence over Senate policy.
3. GAC Faculty-at-large selection: James Lee (Sociology) was selected to serve as faculty-at-large on the Goals Advisory Council.
4. Sense of the Senate Resolution commending President Kassing for his commitment to non-discrimination by suspending blood drives on campus.
 - a. The Executive Committee approved the Sense of the Senate Resolution with one minor change.
 - b. President Kassing will not be able to attend the next Senate meeting but will have Gerry Selter accept it in his absence.
 - c. President Kassing reported that there have been approximately 75 responses from all over the country sent to the campus with 45% in favor and 55% opposed to the policy.
 - d. President Kassing will be sending out a follow up message to the campus very soon.
5. Updates:
 - a. Transcript notation: no update is available at this time.
 - b. Benjamin Henderson met with Chair Lessow-Hurley regarding the fact that he is taking a class that meets at 12:00 on Mondays and is therefore not available to attend Executive Committee meetings. He asked if he could send a designee. The Executive Committee discussed this and referred to the by-laws to determine that a designee is not spelled out as an option in the case of this committee.

6. Policy committee updates:
 - a. Because the meeting had reached its designated ending time, updates were not called for.
 - b. Senator Van Selst added a few words regarding some issues with the Statewide Academic Senate:
 1. It looks as though they will be losing \$125,000 of their budget
 2. Some campuses have instituted a hiring freeze. Because of good fiscal management, we are not doing that at this time.
 3. A paper will be issued on teaching effectiveness
 4. The discussion on MBA and other student fees is on hold. The Statewide Academic Senate is proposing principles for deciding which programs would be subject to differential fees.
 5. The GE Affinity group will be meeting.
 6. A second language for transfer students is being considered.