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CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of October 17 , 2006, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Room 720 Crawford Hall

Committee members in attendance

Jay Alexander	Edith Lerner
John Anderson	David Matthiesen
Dominique Durand	John Orlock
Gregory Eastwood	Robert Salata
Lynne Ford	Kathleen Wells
Julia Grant	E. Ronald Wright
Kathleen Kash	

Also in attendance

Kathryn Howard, Chair of the Staff Advisory Council
Beth McGee, Associate Professor and Faculty Diversity Officer

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Professor Jay Alexander, Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Professor David Matthiesen will give the Executive Committee report at the Senate meeting on October 31st .

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on September 14th were approved as distributed.

Provost's Announcements

John Anderson distributed a memo recently sent to all dean on the need to introduce a technology fee for all students to help in covering the anticipated initial costs of implementing the new Student Information System. This \$426 per year assessment is similar to what undergraduates living in the dormitories already are paying but would now be extended to all students, starting in Fall '07. Students taking three/four credit hours would only pay \$100. Several Executive Committee members expressed concerns about the impact on grants and our graduate students; our part-time students who are not on scholarships, especially WSOM students who take six credit hours each semester; and whether this is a short-term plan? As the decision has already been made to implement this fee, the committee recommends that a clear statement be made to the community about what services will be provided. Deans are urged to discuss this within their schools.

Provost Anderson's other announcements were on research grants and electronic proposal submissions to federal agencies; a National Research Council survey; the implementation of a faculty budget committee in each school and the College which will report to the Senate Budget Committee - this change to be reviewed by the Senate By-Laws Committee for a change to the membership and the charge to the Senate Budget Committee. He said that there will be three sessions offered around the campus on the budgeting process in response to student requests.

Professor Kathleen Kash asked for time on this agenda to again raise the question of faculty representation on the University Research Council which she feels reflects a lack of balance, especially as there is no representation from the science departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. Provost Anderson promised to speak with Interim Dean Cyrus Taylor.

President's Announcements

Dr. Greg Eastwood noted only that the Board of Trustees was meeting on the coming weekend, and that Chair Jay Alexander will represent the faculty at the Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee meetings, and is to speak at the Board meeting on Saturday.

Chair's Announcements

Professor Alexander noted the dinner meeting later this week with the Senate Executive Committee and the Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee members. Professor Lerner asked for some additional background information on "shaping the undergraduate class" which Don Feke had discussed at a preliminary meeting between both groups.

The December meeting of the Senate Executive Committee will be on the research environment on campus.

The Avian Flu ad hoc Committee will be chaired by Ron Wright, and he noted the eight volunteer representatives from each school: Judith Oster (CAS), Stephen Wotman (Dental Medicine), Joseph Pahl (CSE), Amos Guiora (Law), Carol Kelly (Nursing), Aloen Townsend (MSASS), JB Silvers (WSOM), and Vincent Monnier (Medicine).

There has been discussion since the last Senate meeting on which students are eligible to take advantage of fellowship courses - just students in Graduate Studies or students in the professional schools also. This terminology can cause some confusion; Chair Alexander offered to begin a discussion of the intention of that new policy.

Faculty Sexual Harassment Panel/Slate

Professor Beth McGee explained the process as outlined in the Faculty Handbook for hearing charges of sexual harassment involving a member of the faculty. We need to have a trained panel of faculty members and students willing to serve, if called. There are not many complaints which come to the point of a formal hearing so she feels that a panel of four faculty would be sufficient. APPROVAL to form and train such a panel was given; a slate of names will be submitted later.

Approval of Nominees for Honorary Degrees

Provost Anderson read the names of this year's nominees and those who had been approved last year but were unable to accept and attend May 2006 Commencement but have accepted for Commencement 2007. The MOTION to approve the slate was unanimous.

Motion from the Graduate Studies Committee on Postdoctoral Oversight

Approval was given to have this proposal included with the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting without discussion.

Professor Kathleen Wells raised the topic of using some time at the Faculty Senate meetings for discussion of important issues with which standing committees may be struggling. Committees chairs might appreciate time for input; some issues are being addressed by more

than one committee and open discussion would be helpful. Professor Lerner expressed support for this approach. Chair Alexander said he would so advise committee chairs that the option would be available to discuss an issue at one meeting and bring a motion to a later meeting.

Invitation to a Vice President to address the Faculty Senate

For the October 31st Faculty Senate meeting it was suggested that the following be asked for their availability: Tony Kinslow (VP of Human Resources); Lara Kalafatis (VP of University Relations); and Glenn Nicholls (VP for Student Affairs).

Openness of Research

Chair Alexander said that there is no policy at this university on this issue and he noted the example of the policy in place at MIT. He proposed a MOTION to send a change to the Senate Research Committee to review and recommend on whether such a policy is needed and what it might look like. With the suggestion that there be a preamble on the history here at Case, the chair said he would write a draft charge and circulate it for comments.

Professor Salata suggested some comments on enforcement issues, and Professor Wells suggested inclusion of issues of data collection. This would be a good issue for the earlier suggested open discussion at a Senate meeting.

Motion on Approval of Amendments to the UUF Bylaws

Professor J. Adin Mann and Professor Chris Hudak, a past and the current chairs of the UUF Executive Committee, both of whom have worked on these amendments to the UUF (University Undergraduate Faculty) Bylaws, will be invited to make this presentation which was approved for the Senate agenda at the October 31st meeting. The question was asked as to whether the amendments be considered point by point or as a whole, and it was decided to address it as one motion, with the opportunity to respond to questions on any individual items raised..

Outcome Assessment Oversight

Chair Alexander outlined the history starting in 1998 when the Provost's Office was charged to report regularly to the Faculty Senate on oversight of assessment efforts on campus, in response to the 1995 university accreditation report and an internal commission report which reviewed that criticism and recommended that charge. Though no specific reference was made to the recent lack of oversight in the 2005 university accreditation report, it remains a topic of regular discussion for accrediting organizations in most fields today. Should the Senate reassert itself? Chair Alexander will speak with the president and the provost, and invite a speaker to a future Executive Committee meeting.

Discussion of Issues with Staff Advisory Council Chair

Kathryn Howard discussed a history of working with faculty on various issues of common interest. For the past several years, the SAC chair has been an invited guest at Senate meetings. She would be interested in that being changed to one as an appointed representative on the Senate. A second topic of conversation is another one of these opportunities to work with faculty - to try to insure that staff are not denied the benefit of taking regularly-scheduled classes. It is widely reported by staff that supervisors have denied them this opportunity, when it is not directly related to job skills.

