Meeting of Sub-Committee of Executive Committee to Discuss SGA and Academic Senate Structure

March 10, 2023, HOV 419  
Approved

Present: Martha Horst, Chair, Academic Senate and Chair, Executive Committee

Craig Blum, Chair, Rules Committee and member, Executive Committee

Zoe Smith, Secretary of the Assembly and member, Executive Committee

Jimmy Holmes, Vice President of the Assembly and member, Executive Committee

Braxton Myers, President of the Assembly and member, Executive Committee

Patrick Walsh, Student Body President and member, Executive Committee

Andy Morgan, Dean of Students

Agenda:

1. Rules for Student Senators
2. Student Government Association relationship to Academic Senate Structure
3. Nomenclature of internal committee, if used

The group recommended that the following sentence be added to the Academic Senate Bylaws:

“The membership rules for the twenty seated Student Government Association student members of the Academic Senate plus the Student Body President shall be prescribed in the Student Government Association Constitution and other governing documents.”

The group discussed the Office of General Counsel’s recommendation to make Student Government Association an affiliated group of the Academic Senate. As an internal committee, SGA is subject to the Open Meetings Act. After considerable discussion, Student Government Association representatives concluded that being subject to the Open Meetings Act is acceptable.

Chairperson Horst brought up the confusing label of Student Government Association as an “internal committee.” Because of the SGA’s non-Senate ex-officio members, Student Government Association might more correctly be labeled a “mixed external committee.” The group decided to propose revising the Appendix II SGA charge to say “Student Caucus.” The Caucus would include the twenty seated Student Government Association student members of the Academic Senate (elected and appointed) plus the Student Body President. The group discussed that the Open Meetings Act would still apply to Student Government Association meetings because a majority of a quorum of the “Caucus” would be present and potentially conducting Senate business during Student Government Association meetings. Dean Morgan stated he and other advisors will work with SGA to ensure that they comply with the Act. Chairperson Horst recommended that SGA review their language regarding public comment.

SGA members agreed to revise the Appendix II SGA charge and submit proposed revisions to the Rules Committee by March 29, 2023. They also will revise their procedures to include notification of Senate Office after an Academic Senator is appointed by SGA.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Horst

Chair, Academic Senate