

Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes
Wednesday, September 6, 2006, 4:00 P.M.
(Approved)

Call to Order

Senate Chairperson Lane Crothers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Lane Crothers, Larry Alferink, Paul Borg, Farzaneh Fazel, Laurel Halfar, Nathalie op de Beeck, Provost John Presley, Phillip Rodriguez, Jacob Ward

Absent: President Al Bowman, Ross Richards, Peter Smith

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of August 21, 2006

Motion XXXVIII-4: By Senator Fazel, seconded by Senator Alferink, to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of August 21, 2006. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Distributed Communications:

06.05.06.01 *From Doug Hesse: Honors Comprehensive Report (Previously submitted to Executive Committee 8/21/06)*

Senator Crothers: I hope that everyone has had a chance to read the report from Doug Hesse. I wanted to ask a couple of questions of this body. Doug Hesse, the former Director of Honors, developed this report on his own. With the Honors change of leadership rethinking its role in the University, I wanted to ask if, one, this needed to go to the Academic Affairs Committee, two, if we wanted to invite the Honors Director in, and, three, whether or not we thought that this kind of approach to understanding what Honors does is what we are looking for.

Senator Borg: It is an awful lot of data about people and lists of things.

Senator Crothers: I do like the opening section.

Senator Borg: I know that that data has to be assembled and I think that Doug is owed a vote of thanks for doing this. The new Honors Director is meeting with all of the chairs and directors to talk about Honors courses and perhaps increasing the number and visibility of those. I don't think that we have ever really dealt with the Honors Program on the Academic Affairs Committee. It's a Provost thing.

Senator Crothers: For clarification, I am not suggesting that this is something that we can imperialize. I am thinking rather if there is a way to assist and be involved in these kinds of thinkings.

Senator Borg: Is this now part of the regular program review process?

Senator Crothers: It is.

Senator Borg: I am happy with that.

Senator Alferink: The real question is what it is that we as a group could contribute. What did you have in mind?

Senator Crothers: In some cases, we can act as a sounding board. Sometimes that is needed outside of the administrative hierarchy. I distributed the report to you so that we could decide if others could gather value from it.

Senator op de Beeck: I have three honor students in my classes and they come to me looking for project ideas. I feel like sometimes I haven't given my honor students the kind of projects that is going to get them the kind of recognition that they can actually achieve. I think we need something for people who are not often involved in honors to give us ideas on the kinds of projects we could assign honors students to help them aspire beyond the scope of writing a paper.

Senator Alferink: I think an example of one of the good ones is your department. In Arts and Sciences, it is so diverse, so it is harder to get that to happen. There is a lot of variability in the in-course honors projects. That is one of the problems that Honors faces, but it has to do with resources. We started trying to improve those and took various initial steps.

Senator Borg: Kim is interested in encouraging honors-designated-sections to be created. He is looking particularly at General Education because of the resource and enrollment problem.

Senator Alferink: What also has happened is there are some honors courses that are specifically honors colloquia and those largely depended upon faculty members who have been here a long time. It has been hard to replace those faculty members who have retired and it is difficult to get newer faculty involved.

Senator Crothers: There is very little new in these concerns. This particular document probably doesn't need to go to anyone else in the Senate. Some way of promulgating the range of projects that have been done could be usefully provided to the faculty through some mechanism. If Honors chooses to use the Senate as a sounding board, there might be appropriate venues, but I don't hear any desire to take strong ownership of that kind of participation from you. I will have a conversation with Chuck and perhaps Kim to address some kind of promulgation of the types of ideas for projects and other information to facilitate faculty.

Senator op de Beeck: Perhaps, whoever handles department websites could make sure that they have an Honors link on their department website. This report could be on the site rather something all of the faculty members receive as a hard copy.

Provost Presley: Honors reports to me through Chuck McGuire. I am little torn because this is an enormous amount of work. I don't want to see a requirement put in place for that. At the same time, I recognize that the more we can get faculty across campus involved with Honors, the better it will be. If that means speaking to the Senate, Senate committees and putting the PDF form of this report in the hands of every faculty member, I think that would be fine.

Senator Fazel: Could we ask them for a short, annual report to the Senate to give us an update, as the Green Team does?

Senator Borg: Do we really need it?

Senator Fazel: I think we do for information, especially if they are making changes and offering new projects.

Senator Crothers: The crucial difference between this and the Green Team is that the Honors process already belongs to the curriculum process.

Senator Fazel: I am just talking about some type of information sharing.

Senator Crothers: What kind of information would you want in such a report?

Senator Fazel: Anything that they do which is new and of interest to faculty in terms of how we deal with honor students in our classes.

Senator Crothers: How you treat your honor students in your classes is unlikely to be known to Kim Pereira.

Senator Fazel: If he is trying to change the way Honors operates, then it would be appropriate to inform the Senate.

Senator Borg: It might be appropriate if we ask him after a year if he has something to share with the Senate rather than mandate it.

Ms. James: Didn't we agree at the last meeting that we were going to try to have more communication between the internal committees and the external committees, perhaps through a report from the external committees on a regular

basis? Honors does report to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Senator Crothers: It could absolutely be handled through Academic Affairs.

08.22.06.01 From Provost Presley: Nomination Process for Distinguished Professor (Advisory Item 9/13/06)

Standard advisory item about the nomination process for Distinguished Professors. Senate Advisory Item on September 13, 2006.

08.31.06.01 From Dianne Ashby, University Advancement: University Advancement News (Advisory Item 9/13/06)

Senator Crothers: We have an update from Dianne Ashby about what is going on in University Advancement. I thought that this would a reasonable chance to get this information out. We are starting the celebration in February of 2007 and finishing it in February 2008. The only thing I haven't heard about is the relative level of coercion associated with the 150th Anniversary letterhead. I have had at least one unit director ask if he has to buy it.

Provost Presley: I certainly don't intend to police people's stationery.

Senator Crothers: I didn't think that we would have to purchase it.

08.31.06.02 From President Bowman: 2006 SECA Campaign (Advisory Item 9/13/06)

The SECA (State and University Employees Combined Appeal) Campaign for contributions to an array of charitable organizations will run October 2 through October 21, 2006. Last year employees and annuitants donated \$81,540.47 to the campaign. Senate Advisory Item on September 13, 2006.

Thai University Delegation

Senator Crothers: Next Monday at 10:00 a.m., a delegation from one of the Thai universities, with which we have a relationship, is meeting with me, and hopefully others, about university shared governance. I promised to be there and also to try to recruit people to attend. Students are certainly welcome to come.

Senator op de Beeck: I may be able to attend the meeting.

Proposed Agenda for Academic Senate of Meeting of September 13, 2006:

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes of August 30, 2006

Presentation: University's Sesquicentennial Celebration (Carol Struck, University Advancement)

Chairperson's Remarks

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Administrators' Remarks

- **President Al Bowman**
- **Provost John Presley**
- **Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Adams**
- **Vice President of Finance and Planning Steve Bragg**

Committee Reports

IBHE-FAC Report

Advisory:

08.22.06.01 Nomination Process for Distinguished Professor (Provost Presley)

08.31.06.01 University Advancement News

08.31.06.02 2006 SECA Campaign (President Bowman)

Communications

Adjournment

Motion XXXVIII-5: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Ward, to approve the Senate Agenda of September 13, 2006. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Adjournment