

**Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes**  
**Monday, April 16, 2007**  
*(Approved)*

***Call to Order***

Senate Vice Chairperson Horstein called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

***Present:*** Larry Alferink, Paul Borg, Provost John Presley, Nathalie op de Beeck, Farzaneh Fazel, Peter Smith, David Horstein, Ross Richards, President Al Bowman

***Absent:*** Lane Crothers, Phillip Rodriguez, Jacob Ward

***Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of April 2, 2007***

**Motion XXXVIII-48:** By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of April 2, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved.

***Oral Communication***

**04.03.07.01** *From Jan Shane: Request to Place Academic Plan on Senate Agenda (Senate Advisory Item 4/25/07)*

***Distributed Communications:***

**04.06.07.01** *From Mike Plantholt/University Review Committee: ASPT Clarification: Consideration for Promotion to Professor (Faculty Caucus Advisory Item 4/25/07)*

The University Review Committee (URC) presented ASPT revisions to the Faculty Caucus on February 21, 2007 to clarify that promotion to Professor, ordinarily, could be considered after four years of service as an Associate Professor as opposed to four years of service in any other position. Questions also arose at the Caucus as to whether promotion could be considered during the fourth year versus at the end of the fourth year. Therefore, to clarify that consideration could begin in the fourth year, the URC revised this language. However, as there remained uncertainty on the part of the Executive Committee about the clarity of the new language, the issue will be brought before the Faculty Caucus on April 25, 2007 for further discussion.

**04.11.07.04** *From CAST/Rules Committee: CAST Bylaws-Revised (Senate Information Item 4/25/07)*

***Proposed Agenda for Academic Senate of Meeting of April 25, 2007:***

***NOTE: Newly-Elected and Returning Faculty Members of the Senate should attend the Faculty Caucus Held Prior to the Senate Meeting At 6:15 p.m. in the Founders Suite of the Bone Student Center.***

***Call to Order***

***Roll Call***

***Approval of Minutes of April 11, 2007***

***Chairperson's Remarks***

***Student Body 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***

- ***Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson, Senator Borg***
- ***Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee Chairperson, Senator Kalter***
- ***Faculty Affairs Committee Chairperson, Senator Preston***
- ***Planning and Finance Committee Chairperson, Senator Parette***
- ***Rules Committee Chairperson, Senator Holland***

***Information Items:***

***04.11.07.04 CAST Bylaws-Revised (Rules Committee)***

***09.21.05.02 Student Services Programs - Policy on Review Cycle (SGA)***

***Advisory Item:***

***Academic Plan (Jan Shane, Associate Provost)***

***10.12.06.01 Academic Calendar (Administrative Affairs and Budget Committee)***

***Communications:***

***Green Team Follow Up on Schroeder Hall (Ron Kelley/Chuck Scott)***

***Adjournment***

**Motion XXXVIII-49:** By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Academic Senate Agenda of April 25, 2007. The motion was unanimously approved.

***Discussion:***

***Ethnic and Cultural Studies Minor Deletion Proposal***

**Senator op de Beeck:** It was brought to my attention that there was a proposed deletion of the Ethnic and Cultural Studies Minor. The problem is that numerous faculty members who were teaching in that minor were not notified that the minor was being proposed to be deleted. All were surprised to hear about the deletion and wanted to have a chance to clarify exactly what the Ethnic and Cultural Studies Minor covers. Even though there are African-American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, etc., the Ethnic and Cultural Studies is not the same field. Some of these things, such as the Native American Studies, might be within Ethnic Studies, which is kind of an American-understood category. People are upset that it was proposed to be deleted and would like to have a chance to have a hearing.

**Ms. James:** It has been removed from the Consent Agenda and forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

**Senator Borg:** That means that nothing will probably happen to it until the fall.

**Senator op de Beeck:** I understand that; English Department faculty members asked me to bring it to the attention of the Executive Committee. They were concerned about it and would like to think of ways of publicizing the minor to keep it active and make it even more visible.

**Senator Borg:** Prior to the Consent Agenda, which was put into place about seven years ago, all proposals came to the Senate for approval. We were assuming that the committee structure, through the University Curriculum Committee, was doing enough of the oversight work to make the judgments that were necessary.

**Provost Presley:** I don't know whether you can send it back to the curriculum committee. The curriculum committee members need to know that they are not doing enough communicating. My signature on the proposal is absolutely pro forma. I was told, literally, that the faculty that taught in that program were the ones suggesting that we do away with it because they had made a more specific series of outlets for these students. If those faculty were not contacted, then the curriculum committee needs to communicate better. This did not come from the administration.

**Senator op de Beeck:** The faculty want to communicate the distinctions between, for example, certain other minors in ethnic studies and specifically the Ethnic Studies Minor, which is its own field.

**Provost Presley:** The assumption was that this was a general kind of minor and if we made more specific ones, that would have the same effect and the students would prefer the more specific ones. They do. So, the point isn't getting communicated.

**Senator op de Beeck:** The whole idea of a kind of inter-ethnic studies kind of engagement for students is an area that I know that my colleagues are really concerned about getting across. Can it go back to the UCC?

**Senator Borg:** I will ask the Academic Affairs Committee, in light of the question, to agree to send it back to the curriculum committee with the stipulation that they poll the entire faculty to answer the question. They may still say that it is not viable, not because it is not a good program, but because we don't have any students and our resources may need to go elsewhere.

**President Bowman:** This is something that seems like if it were marketed appropriately would draw student interest.

**Senator op de Beeck:** Yes, people were asking if we could publicize it differently. How is it being defined? Do people know about it all? It is important to make that distinction. Rather than placing everyone in a category, there is also this more inclusive distinction.

**Provost Presley:** I was told that the faculty were reacting to low student demand.

**Senator Borg:** For many of our undergraduates, there are so many programs that seldom allow enough hours to have a minor that the potential population of people taking this is probably less than it might seem.

**Senator Alferink:** Except students can double count hours between minors and majors. Also, there are certainly departments that have a lot more majors where it would not be all that significant to add a few courses and pick up a minor.

**President Bowman:** I don't know how big a deal marketing is for this minor in making it more visible, but if those faculty are interested in talking to somebody about this, please ask them to send me an e-mail. We have people who are experts in marketing who could in an hour walk them through some things that might be of benefit. Questions that might arise are 'is there a good brochure?; what is the web presence like?' We want to do all we can to help.

#### ***Ethics Training Response from Office of Executive Inspector General to Sense of the Senate Resolution***

**Senator Fazel:** I wanted to bring up the issue of the ethics training and the response we received at the last Senate meeting. Should we just let it go? Have you received a response to your letter?

**President Bowman:** Yes, in fact I had a long phone conversation and I have a meeting about this next Wednesday. I think the best that I can do is to try to convince them to be more explicit in the instructions, such as the amount of time to complete the test.

**Senator Fazel:** What about in terms of the Senate following up on this and doing something? If you give us the same material every year, we already have been trained. How can they expect us to spend a lot of time training ourselves in an area in which we have already been trained?

**Senator Borg:** This is more than about training; it is about politics and publicity.

**Senator Fazel:** So, should we just let it go?

**President Bowman:** I would recommend that we not take it any further. It could progress to having them tell us to buy some sort of ethics package and deliver it to everyone ourselves.

**Motion XXXVIII-50:** By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Fazel, to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

*Adjournment*