

Academic Senate Executive Committee Minutes
Monday, April 30, 2007, 4:00 P.M.
(Approved)

Call to Order

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

Present: Allison Graham, Ted Mason, Dan Holland, Lane Crothers, Larry Alferink, Paul Borg, Nathalie op de Beeck, Farzaneh Fazel, Peter Smith, Ed Stewart

Absent: President Al Bowman, David Horstein, Provost John Presley, Mark Cassata

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of April 16, 2007

Motion XXXVIII-57: By Senator Fazel, seconded by Senator Alferink, to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of April 16, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Distributed Communications: None

Proposed Agenda for Academic Senate of Meeting of May 9, 2007:

Call to Order by Student Body President/Senate Vice Chairperson

Seating of New Senate

Roll Call by Student Body President/Senate Vice Chairperson

Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2007

Election of the Senate Chairperson

Election of the Senate Secretary

Election of Members of Senate Executive Committee

Presentation: Foundation Board Report (Joe Armstrong)

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***

Communications

04.23.07.01 Charitable Estate Planning Announcement (Barb Todd, University Advancement)

Adjournment

Motion XXXVIII-58: By Senator Borg, seconded by Senator Fazel, to approve the Academic Senate Agenda of May 9, 2007. The motion was unanimously approved.

Plus-Minus Grading

Senator Fazel: Is the plus-minus grading system something that should be going to the Senate?

Senator Crothers: No, that is now in the Provost's hands. It is up to the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and other interested parties to follow up on this and ask what the process is

Senator Fazel: So probably it won't be until next fall.

Senator Crothers: They may start this summer, but there is no way that they are going get that done anytime soon because the Provost is out of town.

Ms. James: Is it the Provost's duty to form that task force or is it the Senate Office's?

Senator Borg: It was not clear in the proposal. We did not make that judgment.

Senator Crothers: We do not have the ability to assign the people to that task force that we have asked to be assigned.

Senator Fazel: Could we make suggestions about how they are to be appointed or assigned?

Senator Crothers: Absolutely. That is something that you might want to chat about following up on with my successor this summer.

Internal Committee Assignment

Senator Borg: When will the internal committees be formed for the new Senate?

Senator Crothers: That is up to the new chair. It is worth remembering that the new Senate is seated much later now.

Senator Borg: When I was Chair, we had the committees formed by this time.

Senator Crothers: But we also changed over at the end of March. My recommendation is that the Chair organizes the new committees and sends that out to the Executive Committee for approval. There should be some attempt made at balance of colleges and consistency of knowledge and expertise from one year to the next on the committees. I tended to be more worried about the knowledge on the committees than the balance of the colleges.

Priorities Report: Alternative Funding Model

Senator Crothers: One of the things in the Priorities Report was to ask the President for support in leading a university-wide conversation about alternative models of planning and financing. What we are talking about really is trying to commission a study through the Center of Higher Education Policy for alternatives to higher education financing. There are models of extremely high tuition but with extremely high financial aid; there's our model; there is the model of trying to operate independently, which Penn State and Virginia have been able to do, but we would probably have a harder time doing it. We have never really done market research to find out what our top price is.

Senator Borg: Is this something that you have been talking about on the Planning and Finance Committee?

Senator Crothers: Yes, and it is in the Priorities Report approved by the Senate on April 11. One of the things that has to happen, assuming the President signs off on the report, is that we need to have some meetings this summer for Planning and Finance about specifically what it is that we want to know. Then we also need to have some meetings with Ross Hodel at the Center of Higher Education Policy and ask how much it is going to cost to find out what we want to know. The university might want to decide to do it with a consortium of other universities. These questions are universal. The university might commission it and turn it into a sales and consulting operation because we will have done a study that we can sell to other people because the problems are there for every university to deal with. So, those

are the kinds of meetings that need to go on this summer.

Adjournment