Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs
MINUTES
December 3, 2001


The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by John de Castro, chair. The first item of business was the approval of October 22 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was a brief recap of the agenda of the full Senate meeting on December 6. Dr. de Castro announced that he will not be able to attend the meeting on Thursday. Dr. de Castro discussed the resolution regarding graduate tuition waivers which is not on the Senate agenda. He distributed an email message from Provost Henry stating that the tuition waiver policy is not going to go into effect until it has been studied further and discussed by various Senate committees (Budget, Faculty Affairs, APACE, and Research).

The next item of business was a discussion of the proposal adding the Committee of Chairs to the Senate Bylaws. He referred the members to an email memo from Murray Brown, chair of Statutes and Bylaws, which stated that S&B rejected the proposal. Dr. Brown summarized S&B's position: that the duties, as stated, would overlap with the Executive Committee's duties; that the CoC could bring forth policy to the full Senate without routing it through the appropriate standing committee (on which members have expertise/interest in a particular area); that the CoC is not consistent with all other standing committees in that there is no representational breakdown by college and academic units; and that committee chairs are elected to serve as chairs of their respective committees rather than as representatives on some other leadership committee in the Senate. Dr. Brown indicated that he did not agree with the rest of the Statutes and Bylaws Committee on this issue. Dr. de Castro suggested that this proposal be sent to the Executive Committee and, if approved, forwarded to the full Senate at the March 2002 meeting. It was agreed that this proposal would be routed to the Executive Committee with one change: the word "elected" would be stricken from section A.

The next item of business was the disruptive behavior policy. Dr. de Castro stated that he had received much feedback he was unsure which version people were commenting on. He will email the most recent version to all chairs and add date to the text so that everyone will be sure that the copy they are reviewing is the most recent. Dr. Willen will coordinate comments and give them to a subcommittee of Faculty Affairs. It is hoped that this policy can be finalized for review by the Senate in the Spring.

The next item was a proposal from Cultural Diversity regarding staff representation on the Senate. Dr. de Castro was concerned that the SAC president would appoint their Senators rather than them being elected by the body. Dr. Gallant explained that she was following the model established by the SGA. After some discussion, Dr. Gallant stated that she would rework the proposal using the faculty election process as a model rather than the SGA process. Dr. de Castro proposed that once Dr. Gallant submits the changes, the proposal be forwarded directly to the Executive Committee for review.

The next item was a draft proposal from George Rainbolt regarding a new procedure for handling items from the Admissions and Standards Committee. This proposal came about because many items come to the Senate floor that don't seem to effect the university community as a whole but rather administrative offices such as Admissions, Academic Assistance, and the Registrar. It was thought that streamlining the process for approving proposals could lighten the Senate agenda. Dr. Rainbolt stated that his committee discussed the proposal and the committee was ambivalent about it. His committee agreed to discuss it further after they had input from others. Some felt that voting on these matters constitutes a forum for communicating changes to the university community. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Admissions and Standards Committee will review the proposal and incorporate feedback from this group and others in their discussion. When Dr. Rainbolt has a final proposal, he will forward it to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee for review.

Dr. de Castro distributed proposed meeting dates for the Committee of Chairs for Spring semester. Locations for the meetings will be finalized later.
Mary Ann Romski advised the committee that the intellectual property policy will be coming to the Research Committee in January from the VP for Research’s Office. Dr. Romski stated that there are still issues regarding the composition of the committee. There are no faculty representatives from the Senate. Dr. Romski gave a brief history of this policy: there is a Senate approved policy in place but it is vague. The BOR has mandated that there will be an intellectual property policy for each institution and the policy being developed now (and that will eventually come to the full Senate) will replace the current policy. Being decided now is the composition of the intellectual property committee and the policy to guide its deliberation. At present, the composition of this committee does not include any faculty. Dr. Romski stated that the Research Committee is not in favor of that composition and most likely will not approve such a proposal until the committee has faculty and Senate representation on it. It was suggested that the Research Committee amend the proposal when presented.

Diane Willen talked about the amorous relationship policy hearings. No faculty came but staff members did. It may be that staff needs or wants a different policy. The FAC is also working on the NTT policy. Dr. Willen will be asking Institutional Research to check out what other institutions do. Faculty Affairs will be making some recommendations to the Provost on this issue but would like to get some data from other institutions first. Dr. Willen feels that the Provost’s Office should be represented at Faculty Affairs Committee meetings to provide input on some issues.

Dr. de Castro proposed having a meeting/retreat at his house to discuss Senate structure. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant