Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs
MINUTES
July 9, 2001


Members absent: Paul Alberto, Murray Brown, Tim Crimmins, Ralph Gilbert, Fenwick Huss, Philo Hutcheson, George Rainbolt.

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by John De Castro, chair. The first business was the approval of the June 11 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was a discussion of the tuition waiver policy. Dr. de Castro distributed a memo from Provost Henry regarding criteria proposed by the Deans Group for graduate assistants to be eligible for a tuition waiver effective fall 2001. This proposal was withdrawn but will be put into effect at the end of the coming fiscal year. Dr. de Castro stated that this policy was drawn up without appropriate Senate committees being consulted (i.e. Budget, FACP, APACE, Research). Since there is a year before it will go into effect, Dr. de Castro is asking for feedback and recommendations from this committee. The floor was opened for discussion. Dr. Jacobs asked what problem this was intended to solve. Dr. Sattelmeyer stated that some people in the university community are under the impression that the university is losing revenue by allowing selected graduate students to have tuition waivers. Dr. de Castro indicated that in the current budget process reducing tuition waivers wouldn’t necessarily mean that the university has more money.

Dr. Jacobs indicated that his department’s graduate students depend on getting their tuition waivers and he would not recommend changing current policy. Dr. Sattelmeyer stated that it makes sense to require a minimum number of hours so that full-time graduate students are supported. It is thought that abuse of tuition waivers is rare. Dr. de Castro proposed that this item be referred to the Budget, APACE, and Research committees for review and recommendations and that those recommendations are brought back to the Committee of Chairs sometime during the fall semester. Dr. Keppler asked for an update on insurance for GRAs. It is believed that the Board of Regents did not pass this item.

The procedure for handling approval of new programs was the next item discussed. There is no clear procedure for how new programs get approved in either the Senate Bylaws or the University Statutes. Currently, proposed programs are routed to the APACE committee for review and recommendations and then move forward to the President’s Office and on to the BOR for approval. Because new programs can have a significant impact on the University, Dr. de Castro proposed that the Executive committee be the body that receives the APACE’s recommendations. Then the Executive Committee will decide whether “the interests of the University as a whole” are involved. If not, the APACE recommendation will be forwarded to the President. If there are University wide issues, the Executive Committee will refer the proposal and the APACE recommendation to the appropriate Senate standing committees for review and recommendation. The floor was opened for discussion. Discussion centered on the issue of a college’s right to design its curriculum versus the interest of the university as a whole. There was agreement that the proposal to have APACE’s recommendations pass through the Executive Committee was a sensible one. Dr. Romski asked if this process would include proposals for new centers as well. Dr. Newman mentioned that another category that is reviewed by APACE is service/outreach programs. Discussion continued regarding this issue. Dr. Sattelmeyer suggested that the original proposal be amended from “New program proposal recommendations” to “New degree program proposal recommendations”. The committee approved this change. The issue of
new research centers will be discussed at a future meeting. Dr. Romski recalled a motion passed but the Research Committee that dealt with research centers but she was unsure if this motion ever went before the full Senate. She indicated that she would review Research Committee records regarding this issue.

The next item of business was discussion of the Senate calendar. Dr. de Castro distributed two handouts, which laid out proposals for changing the Senate calendar. At the present, the Senate calendar stops in the middle of the spring semester. This is causing some problems because several committees are working in important Senate business during this time and it is convenient for the committee members to change at this time. Both proposals and other possible scenarios were discussed at length. It was agreed to pursue proposal B which specifies the beginning of the fall semester for the start of the new Senate but move the March date to a February date and add an October meeting. The Senate Bylaws will need to be changed to reflect a shift in Senate elections and an additional Senate meeting in the fall.

Dr. de Castro announced that the final agenda item, Senate composition, would be the first item of business at the August 13th Committee of Chairs meeting. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant