Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs
MINUTES
October 8, 2002


Members absent: Martin Fraser, Bonnie Fritz, Charles Jones, Ramona Matthews.

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m. by John de Castro, chair. The first item of business was the approval of the September 10th minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

Dr. de Castro introduced the main agenda item for today’s meeting: Senate composition. He stated that the "25% rule" has created problems in the past due to varying interpretations. Murray Brown stated that, at its last meeting, Statutes and Bylaws drafted guidelines for the intended interpretation of the "25% rule" and entered that into the Senate record so that future Nominations Committees will not misinterpret the Statutes in regards to Senate committee membership. Dr. de Castro distributed a handout titled "Senate Committee Composition" with some proposed changes to the University Statutes on committee organization. His proposal calls for a minimum of 2/3 of the voting membership of all committees to be elected senators. The floor was opened for discussion. Several committee members suggested various changes in the definition of Senate committee membership. There was also some discussion of voting vs. non-voting members and proportional representation by college/unit.

Discussion continued. Dr. de Castro stated that the task of committee organization will be more manageable if each issue is isolated and resolved. If the Senate structure is looked at from a macroscopic level, there are many issues than need resolving and many different opinions on how to resolve them. He hopes to get the issue of the "25% rule" resolved first, then each committee's membership list can be examined and changes can be made if necessary. After much discussion the committee agreed that the text should be changed to read, "With the exception of the Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President, the majority of the voting membership of every standing committee shall be elected faculty members of the University Senate unless a temporary special case is deemed to exist and the exception is approved by the Executive Committee of the Senate". There was much discussion of the proper parliamentarian process to follow at this point. Since the Committee of Chairs is a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, this proposal will go through the Executive Committee and then to Statutes and Bylaws Committee for comment.

The next item for discussion was a proposal to add staff members to the Senate. This proposal calls for staff members have at least three years of university service and to be full-time employees. These staff senators would serve for two year terms. Dr. Brown described a proposal drafted by Tim Crimmins calling for SAC senators (i.e., they would be elected from and by the Staff Advisory Council rather than by an at-large election process) rather than general staff senators. There was some discussion on the differences between these two proposals. The discussion ended with the committee approving the proposal outlined by John de Castro. This proposal will be forwarded to the Executive Committee and then to Statutes and Bylaws for comment. Guidelines will be developed for Senate Office administrator to follow when conducting the at-large election.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant