Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs
MINUTES
November 19, 2002

Members present: Murray Brown, John de Castro, Sam Cox, Martin Fraser, Bonnie Fritz, Christine Gallant, George Rainbolt, Don Reitzes, Andrew Sumner, Carol Winkler (for P. C. Tai).

The meeting was called to order at 12:41 p.m. by John de Castro, chair. The first item of business was the approval of the October 8th minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

Dr. de Castro introduced the first agenda item. He gave a review of the two proposals approved at the October Committee of Chairs meeting and forwarded to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee. He called on Murray Brown to summarize the S&B Committee's responses to these proposals. The first proposal discussed was the one regarding the "25% rule". Dr. Brown stated that after S&B submitted its response to the Executive Committee, another suggestion was made to amend this text. Christine Gallant had forwarded this suggested change to this committee prior to this meeting. The text would read, "The majority of every committee shall be elected faculty members of the University Senate". It was agreed that the Executive Committee would withdraw its original proposal to change the text and propose this new language. This proposal will be sent to Statutes and Bylaws for comment.

Dr. Brown then summarized the S&B Committee's response to the second proposal regarding staff membership on the Senate. Discussion centered on a proposed compromise whereby ten staff members would be Senators with five being elected at-large and five coming from the Staff Advisory Council (one of the five would be the SAC president). Christine Gallant distributed and summarized a handout called "Staff Advisory Council and Senate Committees" which gives a history of SAC's relationship with Senate committees. Dr. de Castro stated that the two proposals to add staff to the Senate come from different philosophical bases: direct election versus parliamentary system. He hopes that a compromise can be worked out between the two. It was agreed that a compromise could be worked out provided that S&B withdraws its proposal rather than sending it to the full Senate at the December meeting. Items that would need to be addressed in compromise include a minimum of three years full time service for staff, two year terms rather than one year terms, or on which committees these Senators would serve. Discussion turned to how and when the elections would be run. It was agreed that all of these issues should be worked out prior to the proposal coming to the Senate floor.

The next discussion item was the Action Plan for the Strategic Plan. A draft of this plan had been distributed prior to the meeting and Dr. de Castro asked if there were any recommended changes from the committee. George Rainbolt suggested changes to section 3.2.1: Recruitment and Retention of Students. It was agreed that Dr. de Castro submit all agreed upon changes from the committee to the Strategic Planning subcommittee. Don Reitzes stated the action plan should include a call for more money for the internal grants program and for increased Research Office funding as external funds increase. It was agreed that should be added to section 3.2.3: Graduate Experience and Research. It suggested that increasing tenure-track faculty should be included as a goal. George Rainbolt suggested that section 3. Infrastructure/Support Improvements be modified. Under the heading of "management administrative information infrastructure" he proposed adding "improvements in this area must be consistent with budget constraints and a priorit will be given to no layoffs".

The discussion turned to the items on the agenda for the December 5, 2002 Senate meeting.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant