Members present: Murray Brown, Tim Crimmins, Dan Franklin, Shehab Hashim, Paul Knapp, Ritu Lohtia, Al McWilliams, Chris Paton, Gabor Patonay, Katherine Willoughby.


In the absence of the chair, the meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by chair pro tem Dan Franklin. The first item of business was the approval of the September 8 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was a proposal to formally change the name of the School of Policy Studies to the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. This change was approved by the Board of Regents and made effective August 10, 1999. The motion was seconded. The question was called. The motion passed.

The next item of business was a discussion on the Senate's place in university governance. Dr. Franklin turned the floor over to Tim Crimmins. Dr. Crimmins gave a brief history of how the current Senate structure came about with regards to the various changes in the administrative structure. Dr. Crimmins noted that when the administrative structure changed from having an Executive Vice President and Provost and an Assistant VP for Academic Services to combining the positions into a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs some of the administrators dropped off various Senate committees and were not replaced with the comparable Associate Provost positions. He pointed out that even with adding the appropriate Associate Provost to various Senate committees as indicated in the proposal, there would still be a greater number of elected faculty than administrators on the committees.

Murray Brown arrived and Dr. Franklin turned over the chair's duties to him. Dr. Brown stated that some of the proposed changes are dependant on the upcoming reorganization of the three vacant vice presidential areas. Dr. Crimmins gave an update on the administrative changes that came out of the discussions with the consultants and the Administrative Council. The only change he noted was that Admissions, Registrar, and Financial Aid would be coming under the Provost's Office. Dr. Crimmins indicated that the current system of nominating the Associate Provosts from the floor to serve on Senate committees that correspond with their duties could remain. He would prefer that these appointments be formalized by being written into the Senate Bylaws. Dr. Franklin asked if these recommendations had been cleared through the committees noted on the proposal. Dr. Crimmins stated that they had not. He continued by mentioning the provision in the University Statutes (Article VI, Section 4) which states: "No more than twenty-five (25) percent of any designated standing committee shall be faculty who are non-elected 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 some discussion as to whether that passage refers to faculty who are appointed to Senate committees but are not elected members of the Senate or whether it refers to administrators. It was agreed that it was an ambiguous passage. The discussion turned to the memo that Sheryl Gowen, former chair of this committee, had forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration. It had been placed on the September 23 Executive Committee agenda for discussion. The outcome of that discussion was not known at this time.

Dr. Brown stated that the "twenty-five percent rule" needs to be either adjusted by committee or used as a guideline. He is uncomfortable with having the limit explicitly stated in the Statutes and then routinely ignored. Dr. Crimmins stated that he does not believe that statement limits administrative participation. Chris Paton reminded the group that when researching the definition of faculty and administration in the BOR Policy Manual, it was learned that there is administrative faculty and academic faculty. Dr. Crimmins stated that the University Statutes and the Senate Bylaws are the documents that should be referenced with regard to these definitions, not the BOR Policy Manual.

The discussion turned to a proposal made last year regarding the Provost's designees and proxy votes. Dr. Crimmins stated that the Provost should not be given a privilege that the rest of the Senators aren't given. Dr. Willoughby stated that the Provost is a member of all the committees and cannot attend every meeting. There is no faculty Senator who is also a member of all committees. Dr. Crimmins stated the Associate Provosts should be allowed to vote (since they would have been attending committee meetings and participating in committee discussions) even if the Provost attends the meeting. Discussion continued on voting versus non-voting administrative members. Dr. Brown stated that the system seems to work well when issues are not divisive. The problem is that some time in the future there may be a very polarizing and divisive issue and the "misalignment" of committee memberships will work against the elected
Al McWilliams suggested that the committee be updated on the Executive Committee's discussion of these issues before the committee proceeds any further. Dr. McWilliams and Dr. Brown gave a brief overview of what was contained in the memo that was sent forward for Executive Committee feedback. Dr. Crimmins asked if these issues might be more appropriately discussed by the Committee of Chairs. He suggested that if the Executive Committee had not yet discussed the issues, the Committee of Chairs may be a more appropriate group to review these concerns. Chris Paton stated that she would like to hear the response from Hugh Hudson. Murray Brown stated that he did not feel that the Committee of Chairs was a very deliberative forum, it's more of a reporting forum. Dr. Brown suggested that he call a meeting within the next week with Hugh Hudson, Executive Committee chair; Bernadette Hartfield, Nominations Committee chair; and Tim Crimmins to discuss the issues raised today. Dr. Crimmins stated that at some point he would like to give a presentation on his interpretation of the "twenty-five percent rule". He feels that the passage does not need to be changed but rather reinterpreted.

There being no further business, Dr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone
committee assistant