Senate Statutes and Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
December 8, 1999

Members present: Murray Brown, Myra Carmon, Tim Crimmins, Dan Franklin, Shehab Hashim, John Marshall, Chris Paton.


The meeting was called to order by the chair, Murray Brown, at 1:42 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the October 13, 1999 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Dr. Brown introduced the next item of business which is the language and intent of Article VI, Section 4 in the University Statutes. Dr. Brown had met previously with the Senate Executive Committee and the outcome of that meeting was included in the memo dated 3 December 1999 that Dr. Brown had sent to all committee members prior to today's meeting. The suggested language change is as follows:

"No more than twenty-five (25) percent of any designated standing committee shall be faculty who are non-elected members be non-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."

Dr. Brown opened the floor for discussion. Chris Paton stated that she feels this change does not fix the original problem. It does not address the issue of adding the Associate Provosts to various committees or adding the Deans to Planning and Development. Dr. Brown stated that these were separate issues and that the Executive Committee had advised him not to move on these other issues until the vacant VP positions were hired. Dr. Crimmins stated that this change clarifies the interpretation that says that any Senate committee can have members of the committee who are not members of the Senate but no more than 25 percent can be non-Senators.

Dan Franklin feels that this language change substantially changes the meaning. Chris Paton reiterated last year's discussion and what lead up to where the committee is now. She feels that this recommendation does not touch on any of these other issues. Discussion continued on what is the appropriate representation of faculty and administrators on the various Senate committees.

A proposal was made to amend the above proposal to read, "No more than twenty-five (25) percent of any designated standing committee shall be faculty who are non-Senators . . .". Discussion of the amendment continued. Dr. Crimmins moved that this amended language be approved. John Marshall seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Chris Paton expressed a desire to look at the various Senate committee memberships in light of the change before the change was adopted. Dr. Crimmins suggested that this issue be brought forward to the Committee of Chairs and each chair should query his/her committee regarding the appropriate balance of faculty to administrators on that committee. Ms. Paton feels that it is a significant change to take out the "elected" element in the language. Discussion continued regarding the significance of being elected to the Senate. The question was called. The motion passed by a vote of four to three. Dr. Brown noted that although the motion carried there was significant opposition. Dr. Franklin asked if he could file a minority opinion and Dr. Brown said he could.

Dr. Crimmins made a motion to have the committee's chair, Dr. Brown, raise this issue with the Committee of Chairs for discussion and a recommendation. Discussion continued again on elected, non-elected, and appointed Senate committee members and on voting rights for committee members. Shehab Hashim discussed student senator membership on the Senate. Discussion continued on student membership on the University Senate.

There being no further discussion or business, Dr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone, Committee assistant