Senate Statutes and Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
September 18, 2000

Members absent: Myra Carmon, Tim Crimmins, Victor Flatt, Dan Franklin, James Heitzman, Paul Knapp, Amy Lederberg, Siva Nathan (on leave), Walter Riggs, Andre Young.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Murray Brown, at 1:08 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the April 25, 2000 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Dr. Brown gave a summary of a discussion from the Senate Committee of Chairs meeting that he attended the previous week. The topic of Senate committees being "out of alignment" came up at that meeting. At that meeting it had been suggested that the Nominations Committee, chaired by Dave Vanko, poll the various Senate committee chairs to ask about the composition of their committees and ask for suggestions for change. Dr. Brown indicated that the Statutes and Bylaws Committee already had this project as an agenda item for this year.

Chris Paton gave an update on an assignment from the April meeting that she and Dan Franklin agreed to undertake. They were going to draft a proposal to amend the language in the Senate Bylaws to state that nominations made without prior review and approval from the Nominations Committee would be subject to point of order. Ms. Paton stated that the Bylaws are already written with that idea included, although it isn't formally stated that way. It is a point of parliamentary procedure. They had decided, then, not to draft a formal proposal for committee review. She gave a brief review of the "out of alignment" issue and what this committee has been working on over the past two years.

It was decided that a subcommittee consisting of Murray Brown, Chris Paton, Dan Franklin, and Dave Vanko would poll the Senate committee chairs regarding their committees' composition. Discussion centered on the nature of the questions and what kind of information will be sought from the committee chairs. Once all of the responses are reviewed, the full committee will draft a proposal and forward it to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

There was some discussion about the nominations process. It was agreed that Chris Paton and Mary Nell Stone would make some changes to the letter sent to the Nominations Committee. This letter gives the committee its charge as it begins the process of placing senators on the various committees. It was suggested that the template used in formulating the committees have a place for the Nominations Committee to list the elected and non-elected senator count so that all can be aware of the "alignment".

Mary Nell will poll the committee by e-mail regarding fall schedules so that the remaining fall semester committee dates can be set soon.

Since there was no further discussion or business, Dr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant