Senate Statutes and Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
April 25, 2002

Members present: Murray Brown, Donna Ferguson, Amy Lederberg, Roger Presley, Marti Singer, Susan Talburt, Diane Willen, Carol Winkler.


The meeting was called to order by the chair, Murray Brown, at 2:08 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the March minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was the election of a chair. The floor was opened for nominations and Murray Brown and Amy Lederberg were nominated. A vote was taken and Dr. Brown was re-elected.

The next item of business was a discussion of the Provost’s Office representation on Senate committees. There are four committees whose membership specifies representation by the Provost’s Office by using the (now outdated) titles of Associate Provost for Academic Services and Associate Provost for Academic Programs. There was discussion on how best to modify those committees’ membership lists. Upon review, the committee agreed it was more complex than just substituting one title for another. Murray Brown stated he would review the committee lists of all Senate committees and bring this information to the next meeting. Amy Lederberg suggested that Dr. Brown query the Committee of Chairs regarding Provost Office representation on their committees.

The next item of business was a discussion of years of service for senate eligibility. A faculty member who had worked for a time as a part-time faculty member was asking if her part-time work counted toward the three-year service requirement for Senate membership. Discussion focused on the definition of full-time status. After some discussion, the committee agreed that this person could count the 1.5 years she had worked previously as full-time toward the three-year service requirement and that she would need an additional 1.5 years before being eligible to stand for election in the Senate. It was suggested that this interpretation and recommendation be forwarded to John Marshall for further review.

The committee turned its attention to old business. There was discussion on how the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws were interpreted for this year’s nominations process. Dr. Brown indicated that he would write a memo to Don Reitzes, Nominations chair, concerning this.

The discussion turned to the proposal to add Staff Council representation to the Senate. Carol Winkler indicated that this item was discussed at the most recent Cultural Diversity Committee meeting. John de Castro, Executive Committee chair, had addressed Cultural Diversity and indicated that the Committee of Chairs would review the larger issue of Senate committee membership. There was a summary and discussion of the proposal and how it got to its present form. Some committee members feel that there is confusion about what the purpose and function is of the University Senate. It deals with educational policy and issues of importance to faculty such as curriculum issues, workload issues, and admissions issues. It was agreed that a subcommittee was not necessary and that the committee as a whole would meet in May to finalize its position on this issue. There was discussion on where the proposal will be routed once this committee votes on the issue. Dr. Brown asked that committee members read through all the materials distributed on this issue and send him your feedback.

Amy Lederberg announced that she will be working on the proposal from Admissions and Standards concerning final action authority. Her subcommittee will consist of Carol Winkler, George Rainbolt, and John Marshall.

It was agreed that Mary Nell will email the committee regarding fall schedules and a meeting calendar will be established once the most convenient time for everyone is determined. The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant