Members present: Murray Brown, Tim Crimmins, Dan Franklin, Amy Lederberg, Roger Presley, Marti Singer, Susan Talburt, Carol Winkler.


The meeting was called to order by the chair, Murray Brown, at 10:35 a.m. The first item of business was the approval of the November minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item was a discussion of Senate representation and faculty listed as “visiting” and “temporary”. Dr. Brown called on Tim Crimmins to open the discussion. At present, faculty whose status is listed as “visiting” or “temporary” do not count in the tally for departmental faculty counts for the purpose of the Senate election process. Dr. Crimmins feels that the definition of faculty in our University Statutes is out of alignment with the University System of Georgia Policy Manual. He feels that Georgia State’s definition should specify that visiting, temporary and clinical faculty are considered faculty.

The floor was opened for discussion. Several points were made regarding this potential change. Adding these faculty to the count would most likely increase the number of Senators from the College of Arts and Sciences. Legitimizing this status by putting it in the Statutes would encourage colleges to continue to hire people in this category. There may be other areas impacted by calling them “faculty” and those would need to be investigated thoroughly. Counting them in the departmental counts would allow a department to possibly increase the number of Senators it has, however, those faculty members would never meet the three year time requirement necessary to be elected to the Senate. There was some discussion about how the “visiting” faculty members are hired.

Dr. Crimmins maintained that the Statutes need to be changed to reflect that these employees are considered faculty. He stated that the Statute, which lays out the Senate membership, could be amended to exclude them from the head count if the committee so decides. Dan Franklin proposed that faculty be defined by the departmental budget lines rather than by title. Amy Lederberg stated that since these faculty members would never be eligible for Senate membership (they don’t accumulate years of service), then they wouldn’t be represented anyway. Adding them to the head count would reward departments that choose to hire people in that category. Not all colleges use that model for employment of their faculty and those colleges wouldn’t have the same opportunity to increase its Senate representation.

Carol Winkler suggested that the committee review the Statutes and Bylaws to see what rights people who are designated as “faculty” have. Adding “visiting” and “temporary” to the faculty definition could impact their voting rights at the college and/or departmental level. There may be other ways, outside of the Senate, that might be affected if this change were made. It was suggested that John Marshall be consulted regarding this potential change. Dr. Winkler mentioned that the title “academic professional” doesn’t exist anymore.

It was agreed that committee members would review the Statutes and Bylaws regarding faculty. The sections on departments and colleges should be reviewed as well. John Marshall will be consulted about this and also whether the hire letter for “visiting” faculty constitutes a contract. There was a brief discussion regarding staff membership on the various committees in light of the recent approval of staff senators.

Since there was no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant