Senate Statutes and Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
November 12, 2003

Members present: Murray Brown, Tim Crimmins, Amy Lederberg, Peter Lyons, John Marshall, Marti Singer, John Thomas, Leslie Williams, Carol Winkler.

Members absent: Tiffany Armstrong, Ben Baez, Dan Franklin, Tom Lewis, Ed Palmer, Corneill Stephens, Tammy Sugerman

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Amy Lederberg, at 10:04 a.m. The first item of business was the approval of the October 8th minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next agenda item was a review and discussion of Senate committee composition. The Senate Executive Committee asked committees to do a self-study and determine if changes are needed. There was some question about where to send the proposals for change that come out of the process. The Executive Committee is putting together an ad hoc committee to look at the larger picture of the whole Senate structure. It may be that any proposals to change committee composition will be sent to the ad hoc committee. The recommendations that come out of this ad hoc committee will be forwarded to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee. Dr. Lederberg asked for feedback about the ad hoc committee and its role versus the role of the Statutes and Bylaws Committee. The floor was opened for discussion.

Tim Crimmins felt that the ad hoc committee’s charge was too large and vague. He felt that the issues of concern need to be identified by the Senate before a committee is formed. Dr. Lederberg identified several issues that have come to light recently: the nominations process, committee size, the practice of having unlimited at large committee members. Carol Winkler added that there are concerns about the composition of FACP and the Executive Committee.

Dr. Crimmins supported the notion that each issue should be dealt with individually by Statutes and Bylaws rather than forming an ad hoc committee. Discussion continued focusing on what the most effective way would be to deal with issues involving the Senate. Dr. Lederberg explained that the issue on the table at present was which route should this committee support. Should the ad hoc committee review the issues and pass its report on to Statutes and Bylaws? Or should Statutes and Bylaws be the first committee to examine the issues?

The question was asked about the composition of the ad hoc committee. Carol Winkler gave an overview of how the Executive Committee is planning to put this committee together. Discussion continued on this topic. Dr. Crimmins suggested that Statutes and Bylaws deal with the issues and hold hearings for interested individuals to state their concerns and give their opinions. Another suggestion was to hold hearings, if necessary, once the ad hoc committee forwards its report to Statutes and Bylaws. It was agreed that membership of the ad hoc committee should be carefully considered. It was suggested that S&B recommend to the Executive Committee that the ad hoc committee be a subcommittee of S&B. Discussion continued. John Marshall moved “that the committee that is being created be a subcommittee of Statutes and Bylaws with the membership of that committee being appointed by the Executive Committee plus the members of the Statutes and Bylaws who wish to be included on that subcommittee”. Tim Crimmins asked if the Executive Committee chair could appoint a Statutes and Bylaws subcommittee. Amy Lederberg said she would talk to the chair about that. John Marshall said he’d take that as a friendly amendment. There was some discussion of the charge of this subcommittee. The question was called. The motion passed.

The next item for discussion was email voting. Dr. Lederberg said that she had sent out a questionnaire to all committee chairs and asked them to ask their committee members for specific circumstances where email voting should be allowed. She summarized the recommendations made by the Planning and Development Committee. Discussion centered on whether committees should decide for themselves whether or not to allow email voting or whether the practice should be standardized across the Senate. She distributed, and then explained, a handout with two different models of how to resolve this issue. There was much discussion and Dr. Lederberg stated that this would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Since there was no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant