Senate Statutes and Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
December 10, 2003


Members absent: Tiffany Armstrong, Murray Brown, Corneill Stephens, Carol Winkler.

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 November 12th minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Dr. Lederberg summarized the information regarding the ad hoc subcommittee for Senate self-study. The subcommittee will fall under Statutes and Bylaws. Its membership will consist of S&B members and members appointed by the Executive Committee. Dr. Lederberg will chair the subcommittee. The remaining members are: Glenn Abney, Don Reitzes, Marti Singer, Ted Poister, Cherian Thachenkary, Steve Kaminshine, Dan Benardot, Peter Lyons, and Tammy Sugarman. The floor was opened for discussion. Leslie Williams recommended that a staff person be added to the subcommittee. Tim Crimmins had concerns about the charge of the subcommittee. Dr. Crimmins suggested that this subcommittee only deal with the issues numbered 3, 4, and 5. Discussion continued on the charge of the subcommittee. Dr. Lederberg agreed to ask Sally Wallace if the entire Executive Committee saw the charge, as presented to S&B today, and voted on it.

The next topic discussed was the redirection. Dr. Lederberg summarized the two documents pertaining to the redirection that had been circulated by the Provost. The Deans Group and the Administrative Council have approved the process of redirection. The details of the redirection have been worked out over the course of the semester. Dr. Lederberg feels that these documents should come through the Planning and Development Committee. Dr. Crimmins confirmed that the strategic planning subcommittee of P&D has taken a look at these documents. The 2004 action plan authorizes the redirection process. The action plan will be routed through P&D for approval. There was a brief discussion about the Administrative Council and its charge.

The next item on the agenda was email voting. Dr. Lederberg distributed a handout called “Proposed changes to the Bylaws to allow email voting in certain circumstances.” It was agreed that the suggested text was too long and too complex. There was much discussion about possible changes to the text. Dr. Lederberg asked for a sense of the committee to determine if there was agreement to allow email voting with the specifics to be determined later. The committee agreed to allow email voting in some form. Discussion continued. It was suggested that each standing committee determine the parameters for email voting for its committee. There was continued discussion about what would be the best way to do that. Tim Crimmins moved that the following text be added to the Bylaws after the sentence about Robert’s Rules of Order. “Committees can allow email voting on motions, with the requirement that if one committee member objects to the motion, it must be voted on in committee.” There was discussion about the wording of this motion. At the end of the discussion, Dr. Crimmins moved a motion stating, “Committees can allow email voting on motions, with the requirement that if one committee member objects to the motion, it must be voted on in committee. The results of the email voting must be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.” This motion was seconded. Dan Franklin offered the following friendly amendment: strike everything after “email voting will be permitted”. This amendment was seconded. To clarify, Dr. Franklin’s amendment reads, “Committees can allow email voting on motions.” The question was called. This amendment was voted down. There was discussion about the original motion. The motion carried by a 5 to 4 vote. It was determined that there was a quorum. Dr. Crimmins suggested that this be sent out to committee chairs for feedback.

The next item was a proposal to amend the membership of the Cultural Diversity Committee. This would allow the Bylaws (Article VII, Section 16A) to read: “…at least twelve faculty members…” The committee would like to have a more flexible membership. The motion was proposed and seconded. The question was called. The motion passed.

Since there was no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,