University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
September 6, 2006

Members present: Irene Duhaime, Dan Franklin, MaryAnne Gaunt, Eva Horne, Rick Lakes, Casey Long, John Marshall, Mark Rider, Mary Schoffner, Roy Sobelson, and Marti Singer.

Members absent: Tim Crimmins, Tom Lewis, and Carol Winkler.

The chair, Marti Singer called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. Committee members went around the table and introduced themselves. The first item of business was the proposal to amend Article XV in the University Statutes by adding the term “sexual orientation” to the non-discrimination policy. There was a great deal of discussion on this proposal. It was determined that the statement cited in the original proposal was actually the Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Statement and the text in the Statutes that is to be amended is titled “non-discrimination policy”.

Some committee members proposed using this opportunity to amend the non-discrimination policy as stated in the Statutes to be more aligned with the Civil Rights and EEO Statement. Other committee members felt that making a lot of changes in this statement may have ramifications that lead to unintended consequences for the university at some future time. A minimalist approach was advised: just add “sexual orientation” and change “handicap” to “disability”. Much discussion followed regarding speech codes, employment rights, GSU programs in other countries, etc. At the end of the discussion, a proposal was made and seconded to take the above minimalist approach. The vote was taken and seven committee members voted for the proposal and four voted against it. The motion passed.

The next agenda item was an update of last year’s committee work. Dr. Singer summarized what the committee has been working on and what needs to be done to finish this project. The committee membership of the Student Life and Development (SLAD) Committee is not finalized. There was a remaining issue with the “25% rule”. Dr. Singer will contact Elisabeth Burgess, SLAD chair, about that committee’s proposal. Dr. Burgess may be invited to present her committee’s proposal at the October meeting.

One outstanding task the committee needs to complete is amending the University Statutes to reflect the change in the University Librarian’s title (to Dean of Libraries) and other committee title changes. The motion was made, seconded, and approved that these changes be made. The committee assistant will write up a proposal with all the necessary changes and send it to the committee members for an email vote.

The April minutes were approved. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant