University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee
MINUTES
March 29, 2007

Members present: Tim Crimmins, Dan Franklin, MaryAnne Gaunt, Eva Horne, Rick Lakes, Casey Long, Mark Rider, and Marti Singer.
Members absent: Tiffanee Cato, Irene Duhaime, Tom Lewis, John Marshall, Mary Schoffner, Roy Sobelson, and Carol Winkler.

The chair, Marti Singer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.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 proposal from the Staff Council to amend specific sections in the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws to reflect recent changes to its leadership structure. After some discussion the motion was seconded and subsequently approved by the committee.

Dr. Singer turned the floor over to Tim Crimmins who presented an item for discussion. Dr. Crimmins proposed that the restriction keeping visiting and temporary faculty from counting in the census for the determination of the number of Senate seats held by departments be lifted. He stated he wanted a discussion of the item today, not a resolution.

Dr. Crimmins gave an overview of how this restriction came to be added to the Statutes four years ago and why he feels it should now be rescinded. Much discussion followed. Several different issues were voiced:

- Faculty must be at GSU three years minimum before being eligible to serve on the Senate
- Various ways that different departments set up their faculty/teaching structure
- Equity: some departments don’t teach undergraduates and therefore have smaller faculties
- Visiting faculty are limited to three years
- Budget lines
- “Visiting” status is really an institutionalized short-term appointment
- Possible unintended consequences emerging giving visiting/temporary appointments more “power” or “authority” in departmental or college issues
- The status of “temporary” needs to be defined
- Counting people in the census who are not eligible do the job (serve as Senators)

As the discussion wound down, it was determined that the committee assistant would get a list of all the current temporary and visiting faculty for an analysis of the data. Dr. Singer encouraged everyone to talk to their departmental colleagues about this issue to get feedback for future discussions. This will be an issue that this committee will work on during the upcoming Senate year.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
Committee Assistant