

The Executive Council of the Faculty Senate
April 13, 2009 – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Newcomb Hall, Room 481

Meeting Minutes

Present: Edmund Kitch, Ann Hamric, David Kovacs, Daniel Willingham, Robert Bloodgood, Elizabeth Powell, Martha Snell, Gweneth West, John Brown, Robert Kemp, Kevin Lee, Justin Thompson

Ed Kitch, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order and offered welcoming remarks. Mr. Kitch announced that he had attended the Board of Visitors Meeting on April 2 and 3. The University's financial crisis is stabilizing, mainly because of the stimulus money that the University will receive. It was cautioned that the stimulus funds are for a two-year period only.

Mr. Kitch and the members of the Executive Council discussed the April 8th Faculty Senate meeting and steps to take to move forward with the agenda that was presented at that meeting. Issues that were discussed included 1) how to proceed with the Report and Recommendation of the Task Force on Scholarly Publications and Authors' Rights in light of the discussion at the working meeting, 2) how to proceed with the proposed Senate grievance Procedure revisions in light of the discussion, 3) possible changes for next year in the structure of the Planning and Development Committee, and 4) the agenda for the full Senate meeting on Monday, April 27, 2009.

The proposed changes to Provost's Policy on Grievance Procedures were unanimously approved at the April 8, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting. A formal vote on those changes will be taken at the April 27th Faculty Senate meeting.

The changes to the Faculty Senate's Grievance Policy relate primarily to the clause in the document that says that a Hearing Panel for a grievant must be called if the grievant requests one. The suggested change to the Policy would provide the option of convening a Hearing Panel only if the Grievance Committee thinks it is appropriate. This proposed change brought considerable conversation among the Senators, with many Senators opposing the change. The issue will be brought before the Senate at the April 27th Faculty Senate meeting for a formal vote. It was recommended that the change, and the rationale for the change, be sent to the full Senate for review in advance of the upcoming meeting.

The Task Force on Scholarly Publications and Authors' Rights

Brian Pusser, Chair of the Task Force, gave an overview of the proposed policy and what it would mean for the University. When the proposed resolution on Scholarly Publications and Authors' Rights was presented at the April 8, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting there was some discussion regarding communication and timelines. It was generally perceived that the resolution is fundamentally a good idea. Ed Kitch remarked

that he thinks a policy on Scholarly Publications and Authors' Rights would be good for the University. Mr. Kitch also said the Faculty Senate needs to be involved in the issue because faculty rights are at issue. Scholarship is being created and processed in digital form.

Bob Kemp, a member of the Executive Council, said he would like to see an open forum on the issue, dealing with the pros and cons of having a policy. He suggested that the policy be brought to the Senate at the upcoming meeting, with action being deferred to a future meeting.

Jack Brown, a member of the Executive Council, said he had circulated the proposed policy to the Engineering faculty and had received a sizeable amount of feedback. Some of the issues raised were "what are the consequences of the policy" and "what would the policy do to the process of peer review."

The Councilors decided that faculty needs additional information before the policy could be called for a vote. The initiative needs to be more widely understood. A case for faculty discussions should be made at the April 27th Faculty Senate meeting. All Senators and all schools should be involved in these discussions.

Ed Kitch reported that the Nominating Committee and the other committees of the Faculty Senate are continuing to work hard. There will be year-end reports at the upcoming Senate meeting.

The State-wide higher education organization, the Faculty Senate of Virginia, was discussed. Bob Kemp, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, will ask members of the Committee for a volunteer to attend the upcoming Faculty Senate of Virginia meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by David Kovacs, Secretary of the Faculty Senate