

The Executive Council of the Faculty Senate
September 9, 2008 – 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Colonnade Club Garden Room, Room E2

Meeting Minutes

Present: Edmund Kitch, Ann Hamric, Robert Bloodgood, Elizabeth Powell, Robert Kemp, Martha Snell, Teresa Culver, John Brown, Kevin Lee, Arthur Garson

Edmund Kitch, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

Mr. Kitch offered opening remarks, welcoming everyone to the meeting. He said there will be approximately one Executive Council meeting per month. Because of the limited amount of meeting time, members of the Executive Council will find it necessary to supplement the meetings with communication by email and phone, Mr. Kitch said.

Arthur Garson, Vice President and Provost, updated the Councilors on current activities at the University:

- There have been 8 new senior hires, including 5 Deans.
- There are 3 searches ongoing – Dean of the School of Architecture, Dean of Admissions, and Dean of the Batten School.
- Update on the President’s Commission on the Future of the University. There are six cross-grounds initiatives that are being presented to the Board of Visitors for their approval:
 1. The Jefferson Public Citizens Program [JPC].
 2. The Institute for Faculty Advancement, a leadership development institute [IFA].
 3. The Center for Advanced Study of Education and Learning [CASTL].
 4. Center for Computation-Intense Research and Scholarship.
 5. International Programs.
 6. Science Technology and Research.

Dr. Garson briefly discussed possible future budget reductions at the University. Dr. Garson and the members of the Executive Council discussed the possibility of conducting sessions to educate faculty on how the University’s budget works and the associated challenges. Dr. Garson said he would be in favor of such sessions, and he agreed to study the most effective way to approach this. Dr. Garson will report back to the Executive Council on this matter.

In closing Dr. Garson said the “Environment thing” is being studied. He will report to the Executive Council when there is new information to relay.

Ed Kitch discussed the following Senate business:

- A Faculty Senate member to serve on the BOV is needed. With the agreement of Council, Mr. Kitch will fill this role for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 academic years.
- Marcia Childress has agreed to chair this year's Senate Nominating Committee. The Executive Council gave their approval.
- Mr. Kitch reported that there is a conflict in the Senate's basic documents between the requirement that a Senator from every school serve on the Academic Affairs Committee and the injunction that no member of the Academic Affairs Committee hold a position as Dean. This conflict arises because the present and only Senator from the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, Professor Lynda Phillips-Madson is presently a Dean. Mr. Kitch recommended that this conflict be resolved by granting a waiver to allow Prof. Phillips-Madson to serve on the Academic Affairs Committee. The Executive Council approved. Appreciation was expressed for Prof. Phillips-Madson's service to the Senate.
- Mr. Kitch presented an overview of the appointment of a new chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Robert Kemp has agreed to chair this group.
- Dr. Kevin Lee will serve as co-chair of the Planning and Development Committee and, as such, will be an ex officio member of the Executive Council.
- Mr. Kitch gave an update on the progress of appointing Senate standing committee members and chairs of committees.
- Mr. Kitch will soon appoint a secretary of the Faculty Senate, a position that is currently vacant.
- Criminal Background Checks – It was suggested that the members of council start looking at the current process for background checks for staff before making a recommendation regarding faculty background checks. Mr. Kitch asked for feedback by email.
- The Faculty Grievance Policies and Procedures were amended in April, 2008. Additional changes may be needed. Mr. Kitch will work with Herbert Tucker, Chair of the Faculty Grievance Committee, and Paul Forch, the University's General Counsel, and report back to the Councilors.
- Mr. Kitch said he plans to have the University's new Deans speak to the Senate over the course of the year.
- In closing, Mr. Kitch reviewed with the Executive Council the planned agenda for the September 23rd Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.