

MINUTES
University Committee

Present:

Steven Meyer

Illene Noppe

Terence O'Grady

Laura Riddle

Kevin Roeder

Dean Von Dras (Chair)

Dan McIver (Academic Staff Representative)

12 September 2007

3:15 p.m., CL 825

Previous Meeting:

5 September 2007

Guest: Provost Sue Hammersmith; Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Cliff Abbott; Professor John Lyon, representative of the Academic Affairs Council

1) The minutes of 5 September 2007 were approved.

2) Information Exchange with Provost Hammersmith

What has become a UC tradition covered the following points:

- Revision of winter storm policy. The updated version will specify procedures for cancelling classes when faculty are unable to come to work. Consistent with procedures used when a faculty member is ill, faculty will contact students via e-mail course distribution lists as well as inform the Administrative Department Assistant, who will also post the information on classroom doors. In addition, the unit chair, Public Safety, and the university information desk should be copied on the e-mail. Faculty and academic staff who do not have access to e-mail and cannot reach their ADAs should call their respective Dean's Office.
- Senate Budget and Planning Committee report for the 2006-2007 academic year:
The Provost clarified the meaning behind "one-time faculty savings" and discussed the role of this committee within the context of the budget planning process for the campus.
- The UC was informed that the legislative audit of sick leave most likely will lead to several changes in procedures, but these are awaiting clarification from system.

3) Continuing business

- Progress report on the administrator evaluation process:

The UC's discussion focused on the outcomes of the evaluation process and what constitutes a satisfactory closure (from the standpoint of both administrators and faculty) of the process. The procedure for dealing with administrator evaluations will continue to undergo further fine tuning.

- Committees of the Senate:

Prof. Lyon, as a representative of the Academic Affairs Committee, joined us for an extensive discussion about the proposal to make the AAC (as well as the GEC) committees of the Senate. While the AAC agrees with the proposal in basic principle, i.e., that faculty have the right to approve curricular and courses, it is their contention that making these committees of the Senate adds another layer of approval which will impair Senate functioning. The discussion that followed raised a myriad of important issues, such as what it means to be a committee of the Senate, who has the power of ultimate approval, ability to appeal decisions, and the process for resolution of conflicts between various governing bodies. Further discussion was needed to finalize a proposal for Senate consideration. Thus, the UC invited the AAC back to further clarify potential issues and finalize the proposal.

- Recusal of faculty from personnel decisions:

Illene briefly reviewed the proposal that emerged from the Committee of Six Full Professors of 2006-2007 academic year.

4) New Business

- Senate Agenda

Cliff Abbott joined us in setting the agenda for the first Senate meeting of the 2007-2008 academic year (September 19, 2007).

- Illene Noppe will be the deputy speaker of the Senate for the 2007-2008 academic year. She was unanimously approved after the collective sigh of relief.

The next UC meeting will be September 26 at 3:15 p.m. in CL 825.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Illene C. Noppe, secretary pro tempore