Faculty Senate Council on Governance

Minutes – February 28, 2008

CTO: 4:15 p.m.

Present: Martin (Design), Loy (Ag), Crase (ex-officio), Porter, M. (Chair), Vrchota (Gov & Doc Comm), Haynes (Vet Med), Porter, S. (HSC)

Guests: Ian Guffy (GSB), Paul Tanaka (university legal counsel)

1. Proposed Religious Accommodation Policy/Class Attendance Policy – The council reviewed changes proposed to the religious accommodation policy by the GSB. Although the senate does not have authority over the religious accommodation policy, it is believed the university would be willing to accept proposed changes to the policy, some of which were proposed by the senate, and some proposed by the GSB. The religious accommodation policy is linked to the class attendance policy in the Faculty Handbook and approval of the class attendance policy has been halted due to concerns regarding the religious accommodation policy.

Motion: Move to approve the class attendance policy and endorse the religious accommodation policy (S. Porter, Martin). PASSED.

2. Proposed Open Meetings Policy: Tanaka updated the council on proposed legislation relevant to open meetings. He summarized three privacy issues considered to be troublesome:

   a. A proposal that makes all disciplinary action of public employees public information.

   b. A proposal that requires settlement agreements to include information regarding the nature of the dispute, the disputed facts, and the agreed upon facts. Tanaka commented this would make disputes difficult to resolve on a voluntary basis.

   c. A proposal requiring names and resumes of the top five candidates applying for any position to become public information. Tanaka commented on the unrealistic and imposing nature of this proposal.

According to Tanaka, the Board of Regents is currently neutral on these proposals.

Discussion followed regarding possible Faculty Senate responses to the proposed legislation as well as Faculty Senate right to respond to such proposed legislation. It was decided that Crase would contact President Geoffrey, to register senate concern and inquire regarding ways the senate could work with the president to respond to the proposals. No action taken.

3. Governance & Documents Committee report: Vrchota informed the council the Gov & Doc Committee is currently working on a Faculty Handbook Style Sheet and will begin to convert the recently approved NTER policy to handbook language, pending administrative approval of the policy.

4. Proposed change to by-laws: The senate reviewed proposed changes to the by-laws:
a. A new committee is proposed, the Representative Committee, composed of the senate elected leadership and the caucus chairs.

b. A proposal to change the membership of the Committee on Committees to make the president-elect chair of the committee.

The proposals have already been approved by the Executive Board but were returned to the Governance Council for review of language. The Governance Council did not take action but referred the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Vrchota,

Secretary pro tempore