Faculty Senate Governance Council minutes

November 14, 2008

Present: Skip Walter, Arnold van der Valk, Max Porter, Clark Ford, Pol Hermann, John Mayfield, Susan Carlson, Tom Loynachan, Daniel Loy, and Michael Martin

1. Call to order at 9:39am

2. No agenda changes

3. Move to approve minutes by Walter, second by van der Valk; motion passes

4. Martin agreed to take minutes

5a. Request to Provost Hoffman (that departments make their GovDocs publicly available) will delete the word “legal”, since no actual legal review involved

5b. Noted that henceforth all Senate policy documents will contain links back to PLAC

5c. The “post doc” issue (relating to background checks during hiring processes) will be addressed at item 9 during this meeting.

5d. Resolutions passed at last GovCouncil meeting: will be addressed at item 9 during this meeting

6. Committee on Committees: van der Valk noted that the C on C has reviewed standing committees of the Senate, to assess whether they are necessary, whether they have been meeting, and whether there might be ways to improve linkages among committees whose work is related. The C on C recommends (see document dated 10/14/08) that one committee be revitalized, one be renamed, and two be dropped. Walter noted that his Governance Documents committee would amend by-laws to reflect the C on C’s recommended changes, and then send the changes to the full Senate following this council’s approval. Walter further noted that his committee would also propose language for the approval process for the appointment of liaisons who will facilitate communication between senate committees and university committees.

7. GovDocs committee bylaws changes: Walter reiterated language changes noted under “old business” on minutes from Governance and Documents Committee meeting of 11/3/08. Motion by Martin to forward changes to EB, but after all by-law change proposals are established; seconded by Mayfield; motion passes. Disclaimer about links also appears in the GovDoc committee minutes; discussion ensued; proposed revisions include wording as follows:

*The content in policies contained in the linked websites is not controlled by the Faculty Senate. These non-Senate links are provided only for informational purposes.*

Discussion ensued about where the disclaimer should appear in the Faculty Handbook; Carlson suggested chapter one, paragraph two. Motion to approve disclaimer wording as amended passes. Walter suggested that his committee be renamed the Senate
Documents Committee; that committee will consider this idea and make a recommendation at a later time

8. Gov Doc review: Loynachan reported that his committee is preparing a checklist that will be web-based for departments to use in reviewing compliance in their GovDocs. Suggested that a three-year cycle be established for review, with Colleges scheduled alphabetically. Recommendations for procedure not yet final; a work in progress

9. Employee Verification policy: Necessary to remove the clause “post doctoral and” from second sentence under subheading “Confirmation of Academic Credentials and Licenses” within the proposed Employment Verification and Background Checks policy, to be consistent. Noted that Provost Hoffman has recommended that this policy be amended include a stipulation that academic freedom will not be compromised during background check procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

Next meeting 12/12/08, 9:30am, 388 Town Engineering

These minutes respectfully submitted by Michael Martin