

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 22, 2008
2:30 pm.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Alden Craddock, Keith Bernhard, Nora Engebretsen, Gary Lee, Patrick Pauken, Peter Pinto, Jeannie Sabaroff, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

Absent: Johnnie Lewis, Ben Muego, Nancy Orel,

CHAIR'S REPORT

Pauken reported that today's SEC meeting and the SEC/VPAA conference, which had originally been scheduled for next week, were being reversed due to schedule conflicts. Ordinarily, SEC meets on the last Tuesdays of the month to prepare for the Senate meetings on first Tuesdays. The regular schedule will resume next month.

He said that the presentation at the President's Advisory Council last week by Bruce Johnson, President of the Inter-University Council, was very informative.

OLD BUSINESS

Charter Violation

Pauken announced that the President had responded to SEC's position on a Charter violation. Although the response concurs that a violation had occurred, no action will be taken. The secretary will inform the parties as required by Charter.

Evaluation of Senate

After postponing discussion of the evaluation form last semester, SEC considered the draft and made suggestions. SEC will look at the form one more time before use.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendments and Bylaws

Pauken reported that ABC was working on the VPAA's proposal for amending the Charter to join promotion to associate professor and tenure. SEC also considered difficulties in implementing the non-tenure track faculty career ladder, which SEC will take up with the VPAA.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Academic Honesty Policy

Sabaroff questioned apparent discrepancies in the table of Violations Discovered Before Graduation.

Here is the context: The pertinent table of the policy is available in the Student Handbook, in the Charter at B-II.H, p. 15 of 22, and at <http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/bgsu/file921.pdf> ; p. 15 of 22. The end of the table for the offense of Facilitating Academic Dishonesty lists two pairs of maximum and minimum penalties: from suspension to expulsion with original jurisdiction assigned to the Academic Dean and from suspension to suspension [sic] with original jurisdiction assigned to the Graduate Dean. Underneath the two words "suspension" on the line showing the Graduate Dean as having original jurisdiction are the words "Graduate Student." (The insertion of the words "Graduate Student" is superfluous since they are printed under the range of penalties to be handled by the graduate dean, and all cases are handled by the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled.)

A footnote to the table says: "A student charged with facilitating academic dishonesty shall be subjected to the minimum/maximum sanction for the academic honesty violation that was facilitated. If the offense is cheating, fabrication, or plagiarism on examinations or other assignments and the facilitator is not in the course, the range of sanctions shall be from suspension to expulsion."

Sabaroff questioned, first, why the maximum penalty for undergraduates was expulsion and that for graduates was suspension, which is less severe since suspension allows for readmission to the university and expulsion does not. Secondly, she questioned why the footnote discusses two ranges of penalties, the maximums for both of which are less severe than the minimums listed in the table.

Hebein said that these were mistakes that crept into the wording. He said that earlier versions had "Warning" listed as the minimum penalty for undergraduate students and that the footnote said that if "the facilitator is not in the course, the minimum penalty shall be warning, which shall constitute a first offense under the policy." Giving a warning was thought to be the only appropriate way of punishing a facilitator not in the course since he or she may already have completed the course in an earlier semester. Expulsion was thought to be the appropriate maximum for certain kinds of offenses. The minimum should be warning, the maximum should remain expulsion and the end of the footnote should be changed. Earlier printed versions of the policy should document this. SEC favored handling this as an editorial change. Pauken said that he would take it up with ABC.

SEC discussed the appropriateness of students sharing class notes with each other.

FMS Problems

Pauken announced that CFO Stoll had volunteered to address Senate and that she would speak at the February 5 meeting. Pauken asked that SEC send him questions and concerns to him in advance so he could share them with her.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary