

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Executive Committee

December 7, 2007 meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon - Adelbert Hall, **Room 102** (note location)

AGENDA

1. 10:00 a.m. Approval of Minutes of the November 5, 2007
Executive Committee meeting - attachment G. Starkman
2. 10:05 President's announcements B. Snyder
3. 10:10 Provost's announcements/updates J. Goldberg
4. 10:15 Chair's announcements G. Starkman
5. 10:20 Review/approval of honorary degree recipients G. Starkman
6. 10:30 Presentation of priorities with budget impact
attachment G. Starkman
7. 11:15 Approval of agenda for December 18, 2007
Faculty Senate meeting G. Starkman

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Faculty Senate
Executive Committee

Minutes of the December 7, 2007 meeting
Adelbert Hall, Room 102

Committee members in attendance:

Jay Alexander
William Deal
Jerold Goldberg
Julia Grant
Bill Leatherberry

Diana Morris
Barbara Snyder
Glenn Starkman, Chair-elect
Elizabeth Tracy
Susan Zull

Committee members absent:

Dominique Durand
Kathy Kash
David Matthiesen, Chair

Also in attendance:

Susan Case, Chair, Faculty Senate Compensation Committee
Faye Gary, Co-chair, Faculty Senate Committee on Women Faculty
Kenneth Ledford, Chair, Faculty Senate Budget Committee
Judith Lipton, Chair, Faculty Senate Personnel Committee
Sana Loue, Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on Minority Faculty

Call to order and approval of minutes

In the absence of Faculty Senate Chair David Matthiesen, Professor Glenn Starkman, Chair-elect, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. There being no objections or corrections offered, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Chair's announcements

Professor Starkman reported on the Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee meeting, which he attended on December 6. That committee expressed interest in the recent vote by the Case School of Engineering to change its core curriculum with respect to SAGES requirements. This action has been forwarded to the University Undergraduate Faculty (UUF) Curriculum Committee for review, and will next be reviewed by the UUF Executive Committee. The resolution will then be discussed by the Faculty Senate, which will transmit recommendations to the president and, if appropriate based on outcomes of these various deliberations, to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The BOT's Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee also discussed graduate education, specifically the mentoring of graduate students. The Graduate Student Senate is producing a policy that will be reviewed by the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies. Professor Diana Morris suggested that the GSS look at a similar policy created and used by the

Undergraduate Student Government. Though the USG policy specifically addresses advising, there may be some useful points that are transferable to mentoring.

President's announcements

President Barbara Snyder announced her plan to revise the existing internal committee structure to create a forum to promote greater sharing of information and consultation. A new group, the President's Council, will include vice presidents, deans, other senior leadership team members, and the chair of the Faculty Senate. The president will serve as council chair and attend all sessions. Because of the composition and mission of this new group, she will discontinue the Vice Presidents' Council to eliminate redundancy. She asked the executive committee for advice on whether to include the Senate's chair-elect. Given that there is no provision for surrogate representation on the council, the executive committee agreed that having the chair-elect serve as a regular member was a good idea; that position has been added to the membership.

Provost's announcements

Interim Provost Jerry Goldberg informed the committee that the strategic planning effort is proceeding according to the established timetable. The central steering committee, task forces, and most of the individual schools are keeping to the prescribed schedule. Professor Goldberg responded to a question about the impact of the delayed Pricewaterhouse Coopers report to the School of Medicine. He stated that the medical school's plan will accommodate the information in that report when it is delivered. He also responded to a question about what use will be made of past strategic plans, stating that work of this nature done in the past will be used, as are many other elements, to inform the current process.

Approval of honorary degree recipients

As chair of the honorary degree committee, the provost presented the names of individuals being considered for honorary degrees in 2009. He reported that the committee met during the fall 07 semester to review nominations. "The committee considered its charge to recognize people who exemplify in their work the highest ideals and standards, and sought to select for honorary degrees accomplished individuals whose work has a connection with the programs and thrust of the university." He noted the committee's desire to make use of honorary degree recipients when they are on campus by welcoming them to give lectures and engage with the students.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the proposed individuals were unanimously approved. The names will be submitted to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

Discussion of priorities with budget impact

Professor Kenneth Ledford, chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, informed the executive committee that the budget committee will devote its December 19 meeting to discussion of the priorities that have been submitted in recent weeks by the Senate's standing committees. After the budget committee has determined "price tags" for these priorities, that information will be reviewed by the executive committee and then submitted to the full Senate for discussion and prioritization. The Senate will pass its recommendations to the administration with the intention of influencing the budget process for fiscal year 09.

Professors Ledford and Starkman responded to questions and comments. Professor Starkman noted that this is the Senate's first effort of this nature, and that the process will develop over time. He also reminded the standing committee chairs that it is unlikely that all stated priorities will be addressed in the coming fiscal year, and advised them to consider long-range as well as immediate priorities. The committee chairs in attendance stated concerns about the need for more specific information in order to produce meaningful submissions, and Professor Ledford offered to meet with them prior to the December 19 meeting to further refine their documents. He also stated his intention to include the committee chairs in that meeting.

Discussion ensued on a variety of issues related to this topic. A question was raised about whether another set of priorities could be developed relating to policy rather than finances, and it was determined that policies relating to faculty are generally vetted by the Faculty Senate's standing committees and then referred to the full Senate. Professor Alexander, past-chair, inquired whether resolutions of previous Senates expressing support for particular initiatives would be explicitly factored into the determination of priorities. After some discussion, the understanding was that these resolutions would stand on their own, and the priorities emerging from the current process would convey to the administration the priorities of the current Senate.

President Snyder and Provost Goldberg assured the executive committee that they will do their best to respond to the Senate's stated priorities in both the short- and long term. They value this process, and expressed appreciation to the Senate for taking this initiative.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the committee voted unanimously to endorse meetings of the Chair of the Executive Committee and the Chair of the Budget Committee with chairs of the Senate's standing committees to work toward refining submissions of priorities with budget impact.

Professor Starkman was excused from the meeting to teach; past chair Jay Alexander presided over the conclusion of the meeting.

Approval of the December 18 Faculty Senate meeting agenda

There was one item to be resolved before presenting the December 18 Faculty Senate meeting agenda for approval. Susan Zull will circulate the agenda electronically to executive committee members as soon as that issue is finalized.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Susan J. Zull
Secretary of the University Faculty