Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Monday, September 25, 2006

Minutes

Present: Abbas Aminmansour (Chair), Loren Bode, Cheston Brauer, Jo Duchene (ex officio), Joseph Goldberg, Kristi Kuntz (ex officio designee), Susan Lamb, Faye Lesht (ex officio), John Marden, Claire Pedersen, Brian Pierce, Kelly Tappenden, Kenneth Watkin, Chet Zych (ex officio)

Absent: Thomas Berfield, Stephen Boppart, Avantika Gupta, David Kovacic, Carol Malmgren (observer), Keith Marshall (ex officio designee), Leslie Struble, Laird Thompson, Daniel Walsh

Guests: Phillip Geil, Lucy Rich

A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:15 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of September 18, 2006 were approved as written.

II. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Aminmansour reminded members of the Senate meeting scheduled for 3:10 this afternoon to be held in its new location, 3rd floor of Levis Faculty Center.

III. Old Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee A

EP.07.04, Proposal from the College of ACES to revise the Plant Protection Concentration in the Department of Crop Sciences  Bode reported that the department is working on a Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog; he has also informed the department of the Committee’s concerns as to general education requirements. Bode asked that members forward any other concerns or comments to him via e-mail.

Subcommittee B

EP.07.08, Proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts Requesting the Establishment of a Master of Science (M.S.) in Architectural Studies  Geil reported that the department has revised the proposal as per concerns at our last meeting; the secretary has the final version. He suggested that the proposal be approved as amended.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.07.06, Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the Formation of the School of Earth, Society, and Environment  Aminmansour announced that the Public Hearing on the School previously scheduled for October 31, at 3:45 p.m. will be held in 1080 Foreign Language Building-Lucy Ellis Lounge. He noted that our major discussion will not be held until after the Public Hearing.

In response to questions regarding school and similar campus units at last week’s meeting, Kuntz pointed out that clarification may be found in the University Statutes, Article III, Section 4 http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/statutes.html#sec34.

IV. New Business

Subcommittee A

Consider Endorsement of the Letter dated September 5, 2006 from the University Senates Conference (USC) to President Joe White and Chet Gardner on the Global Campus Initiative  The Chair noted that both the Senate Global Campus Task Force and the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) have endorsed
the Letter written by the USC to President White and Chet Gardiner. A URL pointing to the letter was emailed to Committee earlier. Also, hard copies of the letter were distributed at the door along with the Response from President White. The Senate will be considering endorsement of the letter at its meeting this afternoon under New Business. The Committee held a discussion of the Global Campus Initiative and the USC Letter. Questions and concerns included: What will it take to implement this vision? What is the number of weeks for a term? The Report does not necessarily reflect the flavor of the future; and there appears to be a huge gap in the actual processing of this initiative. A Forum on the Global Campus Initiative is scheduled for Monday, October 16 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Beckman Auditorium.

Lamb made a motion to endorse the Letter from the USC; Bode seconded the motion. Endorsement of the Letter was unanimously approved.

Consider Endorsement of SEC Resolution on the Global Campus Initiative  The Committee considered endorsement of the resolution (emailed to Committee members earlier). Lesht pointed out that it is very important for everyone to continue to express their concerns on the Global Campus Initiative. She also noted that none of the three campuses is supportive of the Report as it presently stands.

Watkin made a motion to endorse the SEC Resolution; Tappenden seconded the motion. Endorsement of the SEC Resolution was unanimously approved.

The Chair will report to the SEC Chair on these endorsements.

V. Pending Items (Waiting to hear from sponsors.)

EP.06.32, Proposed guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees (USC OT-218), letter from Elliot R. Kaufman, Chair of University Senates Conference

VI. Other Business and Adjournment

Mid-semester Grade Reports for Freshman Students  An e-mail from Abbas Aminmansour on behalf of the EPC went out September 22, 2006 to all Instructional Staff regarding Mid-semester Grade Reports for freshman students. The implementation of this policy had been placed on hold for a couple of years to allow modification of the BANNER system to accommodate this need. The message asks that they submit midterm grades in order that freshman students may gauge their transition to the rigors of college-level coursework and helping academic advisors identify struggling students in need of support.

Aminmansour reported that he has received some derogatory replies as they felt that October 6 does not give enough time to effectively evaluate their students. Rich thought it important to let the faculty know what the expectations are. Duchene noted that the A Deans are very concerned about the retention of students. Kuntz reported that the Provost’s Office will know the compliance rate by the end of October.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Diana Morris, Secretary
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Approved as written.