

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 1, 2011

Academic Library

Auditorium

12:30-2:00pm

Members Present: Elizabeth Arnott-Hill, Phillip Beverly, Robert Bionaz, Sarah Buck, Sabita Busch, Chandral Cabraal, Philip Cronce, John Erickson, Tonya Hall, Eddy Gaytan, Soo Kang, Margaret A. Kelly, Lorraine Lazouskas, Ben Liu, William Martin, Sharon O'Donnell, Sureshrani Paintal, Marian E. Perkins, Devi Potluri, William Jason Raynovich, Alesia Richardson, Rob Richter, Kathy Rosa, Yan Searcy, Gabrielle Toth, Yakubu Ubangiji

Visitors: Gebeyehu Mulugeta, Robert Cherico, Sandra Westbrooks, Bernie Rowan, Deborah Jefferson, Angela Anderson

I. Welcome and Introductions/Check-in

Meeting started at 12:35pm.

II. Review and approval of minutes (May 2k11 & September 2k11)

MOTION: With corrections motioned and approved.

PASSED: 22 Yea, 0 Nay, 1 Abstain

III. Academic Affairs Issues

Searcy: Asked that we remove from the Table: Placement Exams agenda item. Approved with unanimous consent.

Placement Exams

Buck presented the three proposal items as recommendations:

MOTION: Proposals regarding placement exams:

- 1. 2. For the reading placement exam, undergraduate students have twenty-four months from the testing date to enroll in the appropriate course.**
- 2. 3. For the English placement exam, undergraduate students have twenty-four months from the testing date to enroll in the appropriate course.**

PASSED: 21 Yea, 0 Nay, 3 Abstain

During a brief discussion Potluri, pointed out with regards to performance-based funding, the federal agencies will be looking for whether students passed these courses. Searcy revised the motion and rephrased it as 24-months.

MOTION: Amend Math deadline

1. **For the math placement exam, undergraduate students have twenty-four months from the testing date to enroll in the appropriate course. (this proposal was passed at the September, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting)**

PASSED: 22 Yea, 2 Nay, 0 Abstain

IV. Gen Ed Revised Outcomes Report

Senator Potluri, chair of the GEC, requested that we approve the new Gen Ed Outcomes. Concern was voiced for a lack of deliberative discussion with the faculty in a University-wide form. Sen. Potluri explained that the faculty received the Outcomes four months ago and the GEC did receive feedback from the departments.

MOTION: Table ACTION item, “New Gen Ed Outcomes”

FAILED: 10 yea, 11 nay, 3 abstain

MOTION: To approve “New Gen Ed Outcomes”

PASSED: 13 yea, 7 nay, 4 abstain

a. Gen Ed Resolution

Presented by Sen. Cronce (Appendix #1):

Motion #1:

Given multiple failures of notification and other significant irregularities over the appointment of members to GEC, the Faculty Senate recommends to the Provost that the committee be reconstituted through a University-wide General Election to be held no later than Dec. 1, 2011 for every position specified in the GEC *Bylaws* including properly staggered terms of office to be conducted by the Senate Executive Committee.

Sen. Cronce requested support for this motion. He expressed concern over issues with the process. Senator Potluri described the process for filling vacancies and noted that Prof. Cronce, Provost Westbrook, and himself had a meeting regarding this issue. A senator asked about direction for filling vacancies in the bylaws. Sen. Cronce said the bylaws are clear and reconstitution does not need to be seen as negative.

Motion #1:

FAILED: 10 Yea, 11 Nay, 4 Abstain

For the record, Beverly voiced concern with a vote that is this close given the gravity of the concern.

V. Shared Governance Resolutions

Bionaz presented resolutions:

Resolution #1

Whereas, not all the constituencies of a university are equally positioned to make sound judgments about what is appropriate or necessary when it comes to teaching and research; and

Whereas, assigning primary authority in educational matters to the faculty promotes and sustains academic excellence; and

Whereas, these principles have been set forth in the Chicago State University Board of Trustees governing policies; be it

Resolved, that the following statement be incorporated into the governing policies of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees: “The Board delegates the conduct of administration and management to the President. It entrusts the conduct of teaching and research through the President to the faculty It recognizes that the faculty has primary responsibility in matters of student recruitment and retention, academic standards, the fundamental areas of curriculum and the necessary policies and procedures for its conduct, subject matter and methods of instruction, instructional materials, methods of research and general requirements for degrees.”

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the University President, University Provost, and members of the CSU Board of Trustees.

A senator voiced concern and requested more time to deliberate on the resolution.

Beverly called to vote.

Resolution #1:

PASSED: 20 Yea, 0 Nay, 4 Abstain

Resolution #2:

Whereas the Faculty Senate of Chicago State University is comprised of full-time, tenured and tenure track faculty of the University and represents the official voice of the University faculty to the University community, and

Whereas the faculty of Chicago State University possess a collective expertise in all academic functions of the University, and

Whereas it is the faculty members' mastery of their subject and their own scholarship which entitles them to their classroom and to freedom in the presentation of their subjects, and

For the purpose of promoting responsible and wise decision-making and to ensure open channels of communication within the University community,

Be it Resolved that:

The Faculty wishes to assert their right under the *Governing Policies* of the Board of Trustees (Section VI) to their legitimate and appropriate role in the decision making processes involving the (1) “University curriculum” specifically and (2) in “academic planning and the determination of priorities for the conduct and development of the university” more generally.

19 YEA, 0 NAY, 3 ABSTAIN

Resolution #3:

Whereas the President of Chicago State University has entered into an agreement with the Board of Trustees to:

- a.) provide general leadership for the University,
- b.) make recommendations concerning the mission, scope and organization of the University...to enhance its operations and activities,
- c.) administer and direct University plans, operations and programs, and to develop and maintain good public relations...with the public it serves among other duties, and

Whereas the President has agreed to a performance standard that includes as one of the responsibilities of his office to improve relations with the University faculty, and

Whereas the reorganization of several academic units in the University has created the possibility of confusion and potentially compromised essential academic functions with the further potential for creating unforeseen difficulties with additional reorganization likely,

Be it Resolved that:

The Faculty Senate requests that the President of Chicago State University outline his vision of the University *at a public forum* for the purpose of clarifying the reorganization process and improving relations with University faculty *before the end of the Fall 2011 semester*.

18 YEA, 1 NAY, 4 ABSTAIN

Shared Governance Committee report with SEVEN Recommendations was submitted.

Beverly: requested we accept the report.

Approved unanimously.

VI. Corresponding Secretary Election

Searcy: Recognized the efforts of William Jason Raynovich and his efforts. He informed the Senate of the duties of the Corresponding Secretary.

NOMINATIONS:

Gabrielle Toth

By acclamation Gabrielle Toth will be Corresponding Secretary.

VII. Performance-Based Funding Report

Potluri informed the senate that the criteria are almost completed for Performance-Based Funding. Measuring will start in 2013. They are not going to look at the graduation rates. Two to five percent of the budget will be based on the criteria. There will be a lump sum that will be divided among the universities who pass the test. IBHE will be measuring performance.

VIII. Old Business

a. 2012 Agenda Setting

No Action

IX. Open

No Action

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by William Jason Raynovich

APPENDIX #1

Chicago State University Faculty Senate November 1, 2011

Request to Reconstitute the University General Education Committee (GEC)

Persistent and enduring concerns have come to light regarding the selection of faculty members to serve on the GEC. These concerns compromise the committee's claim to be a faculty-elected body. As one of only two faculty elected university committees (whose role is to provide faculty input on the GenEd curriculum to the administration) and given the importance and centrality of curricular matters to the effective functioning of the University, the appearance of failed election processes compromises the committee's legitimacy.

The current GEC has not had full membership or representation for nearly the entire Fall term despite the requirement in committee Bylaws to complete elections and fill vacancies by the end of the Spring term. Further, committee Bylaws require the Chair to report election results to the Senate at the end of each academic year. Neither the completed election results nor the annual report on filling committee vacancies was submitted to the Senate last May. Finally, the current Chair's term of office expired one year ago (2010-2011) and has been extended without a legitimate reason to this academic year. Additional election practices have come to light that compromise the integrity of the current membership on GEC including the following:

Failures of Notification: Several entire departments were not notified of vacancies on the GEC where their full-time tenured and tenured track faculty were eligible. This has been confirmed with no less than three vacancies this semester in the departments of English, Criminal Justice and Political Science, and in at least one department in the CHS. The failure to notify eligible faculty members and provide petitions for candidacy required under the Bylaws is likely more widespread than the departments mentioned above.

Failure to Provide Petitions of Candidacy and Election Instructions: For nearly every vacant position this past year, hard or electronic copies of the petition for candidacy were not provided to eligible faculty members as required in the Bylaws. Word of mouth has become an accepted substitute for vacancy announcements. If genuine faculty involvement is desired, faculty should be provided with a petition and set of instructions with reasonable timeframes to consider their service without being forced to rely on announcements at department meetings.

High Vacancy Rate: This September, the committee began the academic year by meeting with 6 out of 16 members not yet appointed or resigned. Additional vacancies have followed. This is at least a 35-40% vacancy rate on a committee central to the University's academic function and just one year prior to an HLC visitation. The high vacancy rate also leads to a loss of institutional memory on important matters and a failure of continuity on the committee intended by the Bylaws.

Election Rotation: The election rotation established roughly 1/3 of the members' terms expiring each year. This rotation has been altered in a manner not explained and without a rationale leading to the appearance of manipulation. 95% of current membership terms will expire in two years under current committee documents. The result is confusion over terms of office and produces significant and unintended turnover in a single year. Further, this concern illustrates a failure of committee leadership to maintain key documents and processes in place.

Appearance of Selection Process: All of the above leads to the denigration of the committee as a faculty elected body and loss of legitimacy in its determinations. The election process has returned to word of mouth communication where a Chair or Dean might notify one or two individuals of a committee vacancy. Without widespread distribution of petitions of candidacy and the publication of a process and timeframe, few eligible members would know of a vacancy. And without adherence to the end of year deadlines, filling vacancies becomes an ongoing ad hoc process rather than one governed by Bylaws that potentially excludes and deprives whole departments and their faculty of the opportunity to serve.

Failure of Check and Balances: The Bylaws of the GEC require the Chair to report committee appointments to the Senate annually. This is done to provide oversight to the election process and to ensure that the Chair does not simply appoint "personal favorites" without notifying other eligible members. In fact, this oversight process has not occurred and two members were appointed to the GEC this month without being first "seated" by the Senate. This means that there is currently no oversight or accountability to any other body for the GEC election process by the faculty. Finally, this request to reconstitute the GEC is not without precedent as the committee was previously reconstituted in approximately 1996 given similar concerns that the election process was severely compromised.

Exhibit One: Vacancies on Aug/Sept of this year:

Health Science - Busch
Social Science – Bouman
English – Ifatunji
Business
BOG
Math/Natural Science – (Expired term)
Business – (Expired Term)

Exhibit Two: Committee Membership (from Bylaws)

6 from the CAS including
2 Humanities [**ONE from English**]
2 Math/ Natural Science [ONE from Math]
2 Social Science
2 from COE
2 from CHSc
2 from COB
1 from Foreign Languages
1 from Library
1 the Chair of UCCC
1 from Non-traditional programs
16 voting members

Exhibit Three: Election Procedures (from Bylaws with relevant language highlighted)

An election rotation shall be established for the purpose of determining new membership to the committee. **Petitions shall be distributed before the end of the spring term for members whose term of office is expiring and for any vacancies.** Candidates for each position must be tenured or tenure track faculty in the area or representation above. To be placed on an election ballot, each candidate must submit ten valid signatures from tenured or tenure track faculty in their respective colleges on an approved petition form. Chairs, administrators and those on terminal contracts are not valid signatories. In the case of a position not contested, the single petitioner will be declared the winner. In the case of the (sic) contested position, all tenured or tenure track faculty in the College of representation will be eligible to vote. If needed, an election will be held in late April to be administered by the Chair **to assure that all vacancies are filled before the next academic year.** The results of the election shall be reported to the Faculty Senate and the Provost.