

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of 2/12/08

Present: Denise Bullock, Mary Fell, David Frantz (ex-officio), Laverne Nishihara (chair), Sherry Rankin, T.J. Rivard, Emily Winburn

On sabbatical: Mort Seddighin

I. Approval of minutes

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. Review of revisions to the By-Laws

A. Laverne updated the committee on responses to the by-laws revisions, which had been distributed via email to all divisions. Nursing and BUSE approved them. The other divisions have not yet responded. Laverne will check with chairs and send out another email asking for responses.

B. We reviewed By-Laws p. 11, Section VI: Committees, A. Membership
We discussed a suggestion by Senate president Markus Pomper to add a passage to b. Procedure: "Associate members may be appointed upon request by the committee, and with consent of the Faculty Senate Agenda Committee."

After some discussion, the committee concluded that (1) under the new revisions, such members would not have voting rights on standing committees, as they would not be voting members of the Senate; appointing standing committee members was incompatible with the election of other members; associate members and others already were already able to attend meetings of standing committees by invitation or by choice, since these meetings are open; and the language of the section generally seems to reflect earlier times and circumstances on campus relative to involvement or membership of associate members on committees.

Therefore, the committee concluded that the entire section on Membership be deleted except for 1. A. Membership, 2. and 3.

C. We reviewed p. 13, Section VI. B., Authority, 4. Curriculum Committee, and recommended adding a new section between b. and c. to read, "The Curriculum Committee confirms that units affected by curricular changes have been consulted."

D. The question was raised whether we would change language on p.12 relative to Budgetary Affairs Committee from division to School and from chair to dean. It was suggested that when the changes are official appropriate revisions to the language will be made throughout the document.

- E. Regarding p. 14, on Review of Division Chairs and Deans, the question was raised as to whether the reviews should take place less frequently. Currently they are required every other year. It was agreed to propose changing this to every third year.

There was a suggestion that the amount of detail regarding procedures for Chair and Dean evaluation in this section suggest this information would be more appropriately put in the Academic Handbook than in the By-Laws. Chair Nishihara speculated that it was in the By-Laws because faculty wanted to approve the process. It was suggested that at the very least, the section ought to be formatted like the other sections.

Discussion of the section continued with questions about what happens to the chair review document after the chair receives it, and whether we might want to suggest some further action. TJ Rivard suggested no, since chairs and deans serve at the pleasure of the administration, and faculty review of chairs and deans is only advisory in nature. It was decided no change was needed in this regard.

- F. The question of term limits for the Senate president was discussed at the request of a faculty member. The suggestion was to impose a term limit preventing a President from serving more than two terms (one year each). We discussed past presidents, and recalled that only two (including the sitting President) would have served three years. One ran for a third term but was not reelected. Some have served a single term. Members expressed concern about what would happen if no one was willing to serve. It was felt that the position was already unattractive due to faculty workload. The committee concluded that term limits seemed unnecessary at this time.
- G. The final item was discussion of whether the AAUP should be asked to review the IU East Constitution section on the Faculty Board of Review. The review is free and will help us to determine whether our policy provides sufficient protections to faculty. There were no objections to the review.

Submitted by Mary Fell