



## SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 31, 2011

12:45 P.M. in SKH 369

**Present:** *Gupta, Etkorn, Warboys, Seemann, Karbhari, Severn, Joiner, English*

**✚ Provost Karbhari's Report:** Dr. Karbhari distributed comments.

Dr. Karbhari stated the Board Meeting will be held here April 7 and 8 at the Bevill Center. The Institutional Presentation will be Friday, April 8 at 9:30. He encouraged all to attend. This provides a chance to see how the Board works and the presentations from the faculty and student representatives.

We have proposals for two new programs. The Master of Science in Earth System Science, and a Bachelor of Science in Individualized Studies. We will have resolutions for final approval for Masters and Ph.D. in Aerospace System Engineering. They were approved by ACHE in March. This will be for final approval by the Board.

There are 3 resolutions regarding construction. These have been talked about at Senate before. We are planning for the athletic field for softball and baseball. There are steps in approvals. There are about 4 steps and this is the first stage. This one says we would like to start planning. This is what we would like to do. We continue to move forward on the student life center. In the selection of architects we bid the architects and choose the top 3 and show the ranking to the Board. Unless there is some problem the first ranked would be chosen. Funding for this will come from student fees and would not impact other things. We are in Phase 1 approval for a track and field facility. It would be going around the soccer field. This would be a placeholder to start planning. You can find further details in the booklet for the Board.

Through the generosity of the Chan Family we are able to establish an Endowed Chair in Biological Sciences. The Chan's will put money forward and will add over four years and it will reach the amount needed for a Chair.

Dr. Karbhari announced that Honors convocation is April 5, 2011, at 9 a.m. in the University Center Exhibit Hall. There will be ceremonies all afternoon for the Colleges and I encourage you all to attend.

Three Graduate certificate programs were approved by the Board and the 4<sup>th</sup> is being put forward. There will be discussion with Charles Nash on the afternoon of the Board Meeting on that one and two minors and a bachelors degree. Then we will submit NISPs or proposals. Dr. Karbhari explained the process for submitting NISPs and proposals through the Board and ACHE and back to the Board. Minors are also sent this way depending on the amount of change.

Letha Etzkorn asked are there any changes as a result of the resignation, etc. Dr. Karbhari stated that the Chancellor will likely announce the Search for a new president and how we go forth with that. No direction change for university is likely. Dr. Portera will serve starting tomorrow until the new president is found. The VP for Advancement search is suspended. Athletic Director Search is ongoing. There were 3 candidates on campus this week. Initially the Chancellor will be here most of the time.

There was some discussion regarding the Budget. Dr. Karbhari responded if nothing changes we should remain flat. We will be minus the funds from the stimulus package. It was not used for recurring expenses. Unless something changes dramatically we should be ok. We are not overly concerned but we will not know until the Governor and others decide what they will do.

There was a question regarding the incentive funds being discontinued. Dr. Karbhari responded there have been some discussion on it but there has been nothing sent from this office. This comes from a discussion from the Federal regulations. If faculty are paid and part of pay is for large classes then it is ok but if they are paid separately then that is not good. The money is not taken from the colleges. We will calculate the average for a couple of years and that money will be given to the dean for use in the college. A couple of scenarios were discussed with the deans but the money will be given to the dean. The money will go to the college. There is no intention to take money away from the college but away from the individual. We have not decided how the college will spend it and that is the discussion with the deans. This is not a cost cutting measure.

 Jennifer English Faculty Senate President Report: The Research Committee met with the Provost and have ironed out concerns and hopefully will iron out details and form a committee and develop the purview of the committee and a person will be on the Graduate Council and work with the Research Council. Hope to have something at the May meeting.

Elections took place and there was some concern for Physics and we addressed it and met and in theory we prefer the Senate not get involved in departments affairs. If provisions are violated then it is a different story but nothing was violated and it was just a comedy of errors and overreactions and under reactions. Have suggested the Chair look at what was sent. We have to hold the elections for ombudsperson and president-elect soon. Dr. English stated she will work with Paul Componation and Jeet Gupta on that and you can look for an email on that. If you are interested and want to nominate someone they have to be member now or on as a new member of Senate.

Higher Education day is Thursday next week. Remind people we are asking for no test or a liberal acceptance of excuses, but only if the permission slips are presented. We will have a list and if you have someone suspect, take care of it.

There was a questions regarding the Vision Statement Committee. It is not meeting right now.

Dr. English reported she is working with Louise O'Keefe on sponsoring a bill on funding for the Faculty and Staff Clinic.

There is no movement on the BETA representative yet.

The Bylaws changes were given to you based on the last meeting. There was some discussion on email.

The VP Advancement candidates withdrew once the Search was suspended and Dave left.

✚ **Finance and Resources Committee** Dr. Jennifer English reported the Committee still needs a Chair. There is work the Committee needs to do and I am trying to get it done but it is at the bottom of the list of priorities. Trying to get out next year's Distinguished Speaker Series out.

Governance and Operations Jeet Gupta reported he attached list of Senators. Physics remains as is unless Dr. Gary Zank says differently. There is no one from Economics. Jeet Gupta will contact Dean Raines regarding another Senator.

Jennifer English went over the list of members. Seong Moo Yoo is a one year term completing Rhonda Gaede's term and other 2 in ECE for 2 year terms.

✚ **Personnel**—Dr. Jennifer English reported that the document included comments for chapters one through nine of handbook. The Committee will look at 7 and 8 and see if there are things we can live with and if not throw it out and start again. We have to make decision of what do with this. We will need a special meeting to deal with this. Would like the Executive Committee to decide what they think the Handbook should look like based on what is here and put it to the Senate to decide and then adjust based on that and send it to faculty for review and then have a bill and submit it to the Administration. Jennifer English will send a copy of the revised version. There was some discussion regarding post tenure review and why it is there. We wanted to have something in place because we believe it will be required of institutions in the future. It is in favor of the faculty member. If you do not want to do the work or you are not capable of doing it then there is a means to deal with that. It follows AAUP guidelines. Jennifer English will email the edited Handbook. We will schedule a meeting with the Executive Committee and would like the Provost to come for the first 30 minutes.

✚ **Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs:** Laurie Joiner reported nothing to add to the report submitted.

- ✚ **Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs:** Clarke Rountree was not present but Eric Seemann was present for him. We will have business at the end.
- ✚ Old business—Bills 343 and 346 tabled. There are problems with the website. Working on getting it back.
- ✚ **Sense of Senate Resolution**—Louise O’Keefe wrote this and you were encouraged to send something to the Senate after the report last time. I thought we should support this and she sent this and we put it in a Sense of the Senate Resolution. Jeet Gupta asked why it is a Sense of the Senate Resolution instead of a Bill. There was a suggestion to scratch line 33. Sense of Senate could be sent to the Administration. We could change it to a bill on the floor. Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Eric Seemann to accept at first reading and it goes to the Senate floor.
- ✚ **Senate Bill 352 Midterm Grades**—Dr. Eric Seemann reported this was submitted February 11 for first reading and it was sent back to Committee and we are returning it today. We took the 300 and above out. Had people from Advising and SSC to talk and this addresses their concerns. It will aid retention and early intervention. Jeet Gupta responded he is against the bill. Students are given grades on all work and they can see how they are doing. Eric Seemann responded that not all faculty do that. We have no control over that but we do have control over this. This way they are forced to give feedback before the deadline to drop. Jeet Gupta responded that those faculty won’t do what they should but will give all satisfactory. We can use radio buttons and just do "S" or "U". Faculty should tell students on the syllabus what "S" and "U" means. We need some language to that effect. Add "Be It Further Resolved that faculty describe in their 100 and 200 level syllabi what "S" and "U" mean/indicates as midterm grade feedback". Ina Warboys moved, seconded by Jeet Gupta to accept the amendment. Accepted. This bill will go to second reading with amendments.
- ✚ **Senate Bill 353 Second Degree:** Jeet Gupta stated he had problems last time with this bill and still has issues. We should have language that says it is a dual degree. There is no provision in the bill that they have to meet the requirements of the degree. Add "Therefore be it resolved that within those three semesters (not including summers) the student must complete all the requirements of the major of the second degree". Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Eric Seemann to accept changes. Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Eric Seemann to second reading. The bill goes to second reading.
- ✚ Eric Seemann proposed a **Military Bill Regarding Loss of Tuition:** Eric Seemann stated he proposed this so that when military personnel are activated they don’t lose tuition money. We are out of compliance with the military act regarding soldiers and sailors relief. The way the law states the university does not have to refund tuition until they are sued. This is a civil relief violation. We want to get Senate backing to say service members can file for tuition refund. There are conditions to be met and if they meet them then they get the refund. Retroactively withdrawn. Jennifer English expressed concern for appropriate documentation—it needs to be firmed up—including but not limited to orders and official documents. Jeet Gupta suggested taking out the first two sentences and start with "Based on the requirements of. Strike through

line 20. It is redundant in bill to state what the policy does. Strike lines 26-30. Up to and including last day of class to right after active duty.

Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Eric Seemann to accept changes.

Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Letha Etzkorn the bill to second reading.

Jennifer English will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the Bylaws.