MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
301 Gerberding Hall - Regents Room  
2:30 PM, Monday, November 18, 2002

Present: Senate Chair Silberstein and; Vice Chair Wadden; Group Representatives, Pace (II), Rorabaugh (IV), Nolen (V), Janssen (VI), Johnson (VII), Scheuer (VII), Lovell (VIII); Secretary of the Faculty Vaughn; Faculty Legislative Representative Sjåvik, Deputy Legislative Representative Stygall; Faculty Council Chairs Plumb (FCAS), Buck (FCEO), Carline (FCIQ), O’Neill (FCFA), Kiyak (FCR), Whittaker (FCRIB), Schwartz (FCSA), Killien (for Meszaros) (FCTCP), Schaufelberger (FCUFS), Sauer (FCUL), UW Bothell Representative Kubota, UW Tacoma Representative Kalton; ASUW Representative Narvaez, Special Committee Chairs Krieger-Brockett (SCFW), Tom Colonnese (SPMFA) Interim Provost Thorud, Assistant to the President Niccolls.

Absent: Interim President Huntsman, Group Representatives, Cummings (I)*, Ghiroso (III); UW Faculty Council Chairs Fearn-Banks (FCSA), Emerick (FCUR)*, Seifer (FCUR), Meszaros (FCTCP)*, GPSS Representative Nixon, Government Relations Representative Taricani

Guest: Harlan Patterson for Steve Olswang

Call to Order

Sandra Silberstein, Chair, began the meeting by welcoming David Thorud, newly appointed interim Provost.

Approval of Agenda

Several changes were made to the agenda. The President’s report was not given, and the action item regarding nominations was expanded to include approval of vice-chair nominees. Hearing no other changes, the agenda was approved.

Silberstein noted that the Class A item regarding tri-campus legislation was removed as a result of an experiment in which the Advisory Committee on the Code is getting legislation at an earlier time. In this case, they made several suggestions and the legislation was withdrawn to address changes.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the October 7th and 21st Senate Executive Committee meetings as well as the minutes for 24 October 2002 Senate meeting were distributed and approved.

Opening Remarks – Sandra Silberstein, Chair

Silberstein chose to focus on two issues. Noting first the commitment of Lee Huntsman and David Thorud to joint governance, she asked about how we could ensure that we work together on issues that may not necessarily come under the jurisdiction of faculty council. She presented the example of her work with Debra Friedman in the Accountability Committee as a shared governance experiment worth pursuing in the future.
The second covered issue involved the presidential search. Last month, the Council of Chairs met with former Faculty Senate Chair Gerry Philipsen chairing the group. They discussed the core values of the University, and desirable attributes of a new president as well as the attributes of a search committee. While the Regents appoint the search committee, it is valuable for this experienced group to share their insights with the Regents. Additionally, the Senate has been asked for input into the selection of the search committee members.

Report of the Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB) – Douglas Wadden, Chair

At today’s meeting, Wadden learned that there are no significant changes in the budget forecasts; it is still expected that the state will have a $2 billion plus deficit. The Committee has also undertaken some preliminary exercises regarding the budget, although we still do not have enough information for concrete planning. Another topic under discussion involves residency standards. Finally, the Committee continues to follow the schedule that was designed by the University budget office that functions as “Budget 101.” If there are cuts, this background work prepares the Committee to deal with them.

Report from the Legislative Representative – Jan Sjåvik, Legislative Representative

As a result of the last election, the Republicans have recaptured the Senate while the Democrats continue to hold the House. As noted, the financial picture has not changed much. In addition to the $2 billion shortfall, there is a $500 million shortfall in the health services account. Could the picture change? Certainly, he commented, noting a Post Intelligencer article entitled “A Smidgeon of Good News.” He urged committee members to realize that the budget may not be finalized until June. Regardless, the prospect for salary increases is not good and cuts are likely. The Governor’s budget proposal is likely to be discouraging, especially since it must be based on the revenue picture in December. Many changes will be made as the budget moves through the Legislature.

By way of background, Sjåvik explained why tough budgetary times are particularly hard for higher education. Because spending for higher education is not constitutionally mandated, as it is for K-12, it is part of the discretionary spending budget. While spending for higher education is large, it competes with, and usually surpasses, the human services budget as well as the non-constitutionally mandated part of K-12 expenditures. Therefore, higher education is a prime target when it comes time to balance the budget.

He ended by pledging that the legislative representatives will do their best for the University. Additionally, he urged members to contact legislative representatives with their views. Members were reminded that they cannot use University resources to contact legislative representatives.

Nominations and Appointments

Silberstein reminded members of the procedure for electing a vice chair, and explained the search process that had been undertaken. She appointed a nominating committee that included a group of past chairs and others. This year, the Committee interviewed several impressive candidates but have settled on two candidates: Ross Heath (Oceanography) and Robert Holzworth (Earth and Space Sciences). Both of these people have served this body in the past. Approved, for submission to the Faculty Senate.
Second, a list of council nominees (attachment to the agenda) was presented: Geoff Sauer (Technical Communication, VI) as chair of the Faculty Council on University Libraries, effective immediately, for a term ending September 15, 2003.

Representative members of Faculty Councils and Committees for terms ending September 15, 2003 with voting rights left to the discretion of the council/committee:

Representatives of the Professional Staff Association: Faculty Councils: Kirk Wolden-Hanson, Educational Technical; Melissa Johnson, Faculty Affairs; Michelle Trudeau, and Judi Clark, alternate, Instructional Quality; Peggy Hartman, Research; Special Committees: Sinh Simmons, Minority Faculty Affairs

All were approved

Faculty Council Update – Lea Vaughn, Secretary of the Faculty

Vaughn distributed a memo listing current council issues, and asked that people both review the list and consult with other chairs where there are overlaps. Silberstein added that this list is also useful for group representatives so that they can see which issues will be reviewed at upcoming meetings. (Copy attached to archive and web copies.)

Information

David Lovell (Group VIII) asked whether the Senate’s Class C resolution regarding Dr. Winn will be considered by a council. Silberstein responded that because this raises several issues, it will be referred to Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs as well as SCPB.

Jan Carline, Chair, Faculty Council on Instructional Quality, has discussed changing the starting date of fall quarter with his Council. Silberstein pointed out that the calendar issue has been an excellent example of how joint governance can work. Tim Washburn, Executive Director, Admissions & Records, brought this proposal to the Senate in the early fall and ultimately, an ad hoc committee of affected council chairs was formed. Through this consultation, she feels that many issues were brought to light that would have remained hidden had there not been consultation. The most important issue that emerged involved the training of teaching assistants and protecting the training time for those individuals and programs. Silberstein thanked all of those involved for their willingness to make time available to resolve this issue quickly and with maximum input from Faculty. She expressed the hope that we could continue to do this on other issues.

New Business

Silberstein directed the attention of members to the revised agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting. The only addition to this agenda will be the statements from the candidates for vice chair. Wadden requested that the SCPB report be moved to a later spot in the agenda to accommodate his teaching schedule. Approved.
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:  Lea B. Vaughn, Secretary of the Faculty
APPROVED BY:  Sandra Silberstein, Chair, Faculty Senate