

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of April 5, 2005, 8:00 - 10 a.m.
Crawford Hall Room 14

Committee members in attendance

John Anderson
Bo Carlsson
Lynne Ford
George Kikano

Carol Musil
David Singer
E. Ronald Wright

Also in attendance

Mark DeGuire, Assoc. Professor, Material Sciences and Engineering
Kenneth Laurita, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee
Georgia Narsavage, Chair, By-Laws Committee
Paul Salipante, Chair, University Libraries Committee
Glenn Starkman, Chair, Budget Committee

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Professor Bo Carlsson, Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Professor Carol Musil agreed to give the Executive Committee report at the Senate meeting on April 25.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting on March 10 were approved as distributed.

President's Announcements

President Hundert was unable to be present.

Provost's Announcements

John Anderson noted an interesting recent experience of being interviewed by a staff member of the student newspaper for a good article on the University's budget process.

He reported that enrollments are presently 35% ahead of this same time last year, and that College of Arts and Sciences faculty and the Weatherhead faculty are both being especially proactive.

The preliminary University Strategic Academic Plan is to be presented to the Board of Trustees on June 3, with the final plans due in October. The document will appear on the web, with links to the school sites. Among the questions and comments was one about whether Case is working with University Hospitals who are also developing their own master plan. The commitment to a single university strategic plan, developed from the strategic plans of each school in which their faculty participated, differs in degree among the schools, which emphasizes that this is an ongoing process, the first time that many remember being so engaged.

Provost Anderson will be meeting on April 15 with the Faculty Compensation Committee on the salary comparisons with peer institutions. He already has plans for making progress toward achieving the goal of raising faculty salaries here.

Other items noted: John Anderson's suggestion that Kenneth Basch be invited back early in the fall to give an update on the Campus Master Plan; the April 20 baseball game between our Spartans and Oberlin College to be played at Jacob's Field - invitation open to anyone who can get away during daytime hours; and the continuing monthly Harcourt House receptions for faculty, administration, and staff.

Chair's Announcements

Professor Carlsson announced the annual dinner meeting with the Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee and asked all to save the date of June 2. The discussion topic will be

Internationalization.

The ad hoc Committee on Faculty Surveys will not be ready to make its final report at the April Senate meeting but will make a brief interim report nonetheless.

Faculty/Government Relations will be topic for discussion on that April agenda with Vice President Mark Carlson.

Report of the By-Laws Committee

Committee Chair Georgia Narsavage said that the committee, along with the Office of Counsel and Lois Langell for the Provost's Office, have all reviewed and are recommending that the Senate approve this section of the by-laws of The Case School of Engineering. Professor Mark DeGuire was invited to comment on the process of revisions to their by-laws during this year, parts of which were approved in the fall; and this section is now ready for review on policies and procedures for faculty in different categories, including a proposed new category of Research Assistant Professor. The Criteria and Standards for Promotion and Tenure, yet to be presented, will finish the process next fall. With the promise to clarify and make minor wording changes; and contingent upon approval of this document by a vote of the CSE faculty on April 14, it was approved for the Faculty Senate agenda of April 25.

Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

Chair Kenneth Laurita noted that the proposal for a joint degree, J.D./M.S. in Biochemistry, has not yet been reviewed by his committee due to the timing of committee meetings and finishing up prior business before the committee. In his own review of the proposal, he does not see any reason that the committee would withhold endorsement. It was suggested that, contingent upon approval by the committee, this item be approved for the next Senate agenda. Chair-elect Wright expressed his concern that process for full approvals by the Faculty Senate is not being followed.

Report of the Nominating Committee

In the absence of Chair Kathleen Farkas, Professor Carlsson summarized: except for one remaining opening, the slates for all standing committees are complete. A question was raised about the process of voting for the Executive Committee prior to offering the opportunity for a nomination from the floor of the Senate. [A later review of past practices indicated that Executive Committee has not been treated like the other standing committees in that a slate with more candidates than openings is mailed or e-mailed to eligible voting Senators, whereas membership on the other standing committees is by a voice vote for the entire slate, with the opportunity given prior to the vote at a full Senate meeting, for nominations from the floor of the Senate of any willing candidate.]

Report of the University Libraries Committee

Chair Paul Salipante reported that the committee had focused its efforts this semester on Open Access Publishing; and this agenda included a descriptive report, a proposed motion, and also several web sites for further information. The proposed resolution will enable campus libraries to be more proactive in addressing scholarly communications issues with faculty and others in the academic units on campus. Also, it will place us on record, along with a number of selected, high profile peer institutions as supporting an approach to scholarly communications which is beneficial to society at large, to the scholarly community, and to this university.

Open Access Publishing has been discussed with strategic planning groups around campus. Their concerns, especially about journal quality and the implications for professional associations that are partially supported by commercially published journals, have been taken into account in the proposed resolution. The resolution does not mandate any action but, rather, "urges" and encourages support for Open Access Publishing. It does not prohibit any scholarly practices currently being followed in the University's various academic units.

There was some discussion and a few suggested modifications to the text, including the importance of supporting library decisions in redirecting purchases from high-priced publishers. The vote was to include this item on the Senate agenda.

Report of the Research Committee

Chair Carol Musil said that the Guidelines on Authorship in the Faculty Handbook had not been revised in the past 30 years, and she noted some of the main proposed changes to the document now being presented by the committee. There was considerable discussion on a few areas in the proposed text which would be impossible to abide by in certain disciplines, specifically noted were Physics and Mathematics, where there are well-established contradictory practices.

Chair Carlsson suggested that those modifications in the text be addressed by the three parties concerned, and then the Executive Committee approved including a modified document on the next Senate agenda.

Report of the Compensation Committee

Chair Theresa Pretlow will report at the April 25 Senate meeting.

Other Business

The upcoming accreditation team visit by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association from April 11-13 was mentioned. Professor Wright reported that he had met with student representatives and that the USG (Undergraduate Student Government) had passed a resolution opposing Ohio Senate Bill 24 to be sent, along with the statement from the Faculty Senate, to the appropriate officials.

Approval of Agenda for April 25, 2005 Faculty Senate Meeting

The agenda was approved as presented.

Lynne E. Ford
Secretary of the Faculty Senate