COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES

Minutes

Members Present: Mohamad Ansari, Larry Backer, Dawn Blasko, Mark Casteel, Patricia Hinchey, Pamela Hufnagel, Jonna Kulikowich, Jeffrey Laman, Christopher Long, Kim Steiner, James Strauss, Brenton Yarnal

Members Absent: John Bagby, Michael Chorney

Other: Dan Hagen

Chair Mark Casteel called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. in 114 Kern Building.

The minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously. Chair Casteel reported the Officers and Chairs meeting scheduled for January 26 was cancelled.

Old Business

Changes to the Bylaws, Article II, Section 1 (Duties) is on January 27 Senate agenda.

Revisions to the Standing Rules, Article II, Section 6 (Senate Committee Structure) is on January 27 Senate agenda.

Nominations for Faculty Rights & Responsibilities, University Promotion & Tenure, Standing Joint Committee on Tenure. Additional nominees were added to each slate. Members will confirm that nominees have consented to stand for election and report back to Chair Casteel.

New Business

Discussion of recommendation to the president for the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) The Committee voted to recommend to President Barron that Linda Caldwell be re-appointed as FAR for a 5-year term. The Committee will also recommend that a transition plan be developed in the future, to include identifying the successor FAR at least one year prior to the end of the FAR’s term and have the possible FAR successor serve as chair of Intercollegiate Athletics for a year or two, so the incumbent can mentor the successor. It was also suggested that the FAR position should be considered a half-time appointment, not quarter-time as currently described.

Legislative report for new ARSSA subcommittee on articulation agreements The report was approved for submission to Senate Council on a Blasko/Hinchey motion.

Overlap of outgoing and incoming ombudspersons Discussion focused on the steep learning curve for a new University Faculty Ombudsperson, and the need for the outgoing ombudsperson to mentor the incoming ombudsperson. Pam Hufnagel will draft a legislative report to revise Standing Rules Section 10 to enable overlap of those two individuals.
Number of elected senators  Senate Secretary Strauss outlined his concerns about the impact of the current limit of 200 elected faculty senators on appointing committee rosters, especially those that require representation from all units. He suggested adding 15 seats could at least partially face that challenge. Discussion focused on difficulty reported by some units to obtain sufficient nominees for open Senate seats during the annual Senate elections, variations in work load among committees of various sizes, and the need to develop a data-driven case for any change in the number of elected faculty senators. The Committee decided not to propose any changes at this time.

Report to Senate about Board of Trustee Meetings  Discussion revolved around the benefits of having a formal report from either the four faculty senators who participate in meetings of the Trustees or the new Academic Trustee on a periodic basis. It was decided that an annual informational report from the Academic Trustee, possibly scheduled for the September Senate meeting, would be beneficial. The Senate Chair would invite the Academic Trustee and the Chair of the Board of Trustees to attend the September meeting. Senate Chair Kulikowich will notify the Chairman of the Board that an invitation will be extended once the Academic Trustee has been elected.

Membership of Senate Council in regard to the two law schools  The two law schools will each have two faculty senators in 2015-16. If they were combined, then the combined unit would qualify to have a Senate Council representative. After considerable discussion, it was decided to wait one year before reconsidering the issue.

Other topics for discussion

A draft document prepared by Vice Chair Pat Hinchey and a subcommittee regarding means for voicing concerns to the Senate was reviewed. An Informational Report will be prepared for review and vote by the Committee. If approved, the report will be submitted for Senate Council review in March.

David Han was appointed Vice Chair of ARSSA to fill the void created when Richard Robinett was named Chair of ARSSA. Robinett replaced Keefe Manning, who was serving as an alternate for the senate seat of Jeff Laman during the fall semester.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Submitted by Dan Hagen, Executive Director