COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES

2013-2014 Meeting #5, March 18, 2014 Minutes

Members Present: Larry Backer, Dawn Blasko, Robin Bower, Mark Casteel, Michael Chorney, Patricia Hinchey, Pamela Hufnagel, Jonna Kulikowich, Jeffrey Laman, Christopher Long, Cynthia Robinson, Keith Shapiro, James Strauss, Brenton Yarnal

Members Absent: None

Chair Cynthia Robinson called the meeting to order and introduced Mike Mancini, a Schreyer Honors College student. Mancini discussed the perceived need for representation of Schreyer students on the Senate, and recognized the potential for double-representation of Schreyer students, who are in an academic college as well. He suggested non-voting membership on the Senate could be appropriate. After he departured the committee discussed the request at length. On a Strauss/Casteel motion, the committee voted to recommend to the new leadership of Undergraduate Education that Schreyer Honors College be invited to recommend a resource person for that committee, to be identified by Schreyer by whatever mechanism it desires.

The minutes of the January 28, 2014 were approved unanimously. Mark Casteel, who attended the Officers and Chairs meeting on behalf of Chair Robinson, provided a brief overview of, the meeting, noting concerns about the scope of AD-77. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next FAC meeting.

A memo sent by Provost Jones and Hagen to campus senators was discussed. Discussion focused on concerns raised by some campus senators about the tone of the memo and the perception that attendance by campus senators at Senate meetings was discouraged.

Old Business

Nominating Report for 2014-2015 on March 18 Agenda. Chad Dechow, Assoc. Professor of Dairy Cattle Genetics, College of Agricultural Sciences, agreed to be nominated for FR&R as a UP representative. Mark Casteel offered to nominate Dechow from the floor during the plenary session. It was pointed out that one nominee for Chair-Elect and one nominee for Secretary withdrew their names from the ballot.

Retired senator election. Peter Jurs was re-elected; his name will be announced during the afternoon plenary session.

Implementation of Self-Study Committee recommendations; revisions to Bylaws and Standing Rules. Chair Robinson discussed changes that had been made to reflect comments in Senate Council about the documents previously submitted. The revised documents are essentially verbatim from the wording passed by Senate action on the Self-Study recommendations. Reports were approved on a Shapiro/Strauss motion.
Review representation requirements for Standing committees. Hagen discussed the input received from the committee leadership. Curricular Affairs requested additional members due to the heavy workload of that committee. Global Programs indicated it could be reduced in size by one or two members. Intercollegiate Athletics is challenged by the learning curve that is required for new members to understand the complexity of athletics. They would like to have from one to three members of the committee who have multiple-year terms to provide continuity. All other committees were satisfied with their current size.

University Ombudsperson nominations: Hagen reported only one nomination had been received to date; more nominations are needed. He pointed out some feedback from potential nominees that the length of term (4 years) is a concern. Debbie Atwater suggested in a conversation with Hagen that the length of term be studied. Are potential Senate nominees also concerned about the 4-year term and not willing to commit for that length of time? Several units had trouble identifying sufficient candidates to hold valid senator elections this winter. Perhaps CC&R should consider implications of the length of term on willingness of faculty to serve on the Senate or as the ombudsperson.

New Business:

UFS involvement in athletics searches. Secretary Laman introduced the topic, pointing out the short time frame in which some varsity coaches are selected, such as with the hiring of James Franklin, the new football coach. The issue was discussed with Linda Caldwell, Faculty Athletic Representative, who participates in searches. Having another faculty member on search committees is desirable. A mechanism is needed to establish a group of faculty who would be ready to participate on short notice. One suggestion was to develop an extra-senatorial committee that would comprise participants in the Faculty Partners program and the chair of IAC. The Partners have knowledge of the athletics programs but participate on a voluntary basis. One member would be selected by the chair of the committee to participate in each search so no individual would be unduly burdened. The officers were asked to develop a draft outline for a committee that would be discussed by FAC at its next meeting, with follow-up at the next CC&R meeting, as appropriate.

Length of term for the University Faculty Ombudsperson and Senate terms: See Old Business

Faculty Advisory Committee membership—revisions to the Standing Rules. Hagen presented draft legislation that would clarify wording in the description of electing members to this committee. Yarnal pointed out the need for further clarification. Hagen will revise the document for submission to Senate Council in April.

Other Topics for Discussion:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.
Submitted by Dan Hagen