COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES
2013-2014 Meeting #1 September 10, 2013

Minutes

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

Chair Cynthia Robinson called the meeting to order and requested approval of the April 23, 2013 minutes. The minutes were approved on a Casteel/Hagen motion. Robinson reviewed the CC&R priorities for 2013-14 and invited additional items as the year progressed. She reminded members of the following item on the Sept. 10 Senate Agenda: Revisions to the Standing Rules, Article 1, Section 5 (Rules of Procedure). Post-meeting note: The proposed revisions were approved.

Old Business

Implementation of Senate Self-Study committee recommendations #2, 3, 4, 7, 8 (Bylaws amendments) and #1, 5, 6 (Standing Rule amendments): Robinson requested volunteers to constitute a subcommittee to develop recommendations for revisions to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. CC&R members Bower, Shapiro, and Strauss volunteered to work on converting the Self-Study committee recommendations for review by CC&R.

Continuing discussion: Possible revisions to the Guidelines for Faculty Organizations in consultation with Senate Council: Hufnagel reminded CC&R members that Senate Council has the jurisdiction for the “Guidelines for Faculty Organizations” and that any revisions approved by CC&R would be forwarded to the Unit Constitution subcommittee and Senate Council for review and action.

Some members asked about the role of the University College Faculty Council (see link to Constitution) http://www.senate.psu.edu/constitutions/Campuses/university_college.pdf and the University College Faculty Council representatives: http://www.campuses.psu.edu/UC_Fac_Council.pdf This topic will be discussed at the October 22 CC&R meeting.

Shapiro commented on the need to define “ex officio” in the Guidelines. Bower observed there is a growing number of fixed term one faculty assigned to teach across multiple campuses. She asked if these faculty had “home” campuses? The sentiment among members was that all full-time faculty have “home” colleges or campuses. It was then noted by several members that part-time faculty are being included as members of campus faculty governance organizations. Other asked if this might be a “best practice.” Hufnagel will make the suggested editorial revisions for the October meeting.

New Business:

Revision to Senate Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, Delegation of Authority: Physician Assistant MS program: Robinson provided background on this proposal that was submitted by John Boehmer, chair of the College of Medicine Faculty Organization. The revision was approved for the Senate Council agenda on a Blasko/Hufnagel motion.
Constitute 2013-2014 Elections Commission, Bylaws, Article III, Section 8: Robinson requested volunteers and Blasko, Hagen, Hufnagel, and Shapiro offered to serve. Senate Secretary Jeff Laman will chair the Elections Commission.

Subset of Senate Council to convene during summer months: This agenda item was brought to the attention of Yarnal and Youtz by Vice President Pangborn who asked if there is a mechanism for Senate business to be conducted over the summer months to conduct time-sensitive and/or emergency business. Given that Senate Council is an elected and representative body of the Senate, it was suggested that convening a subset of Senate Council might work effectively. Members asked for examples of business that might be conducted---a reorganization proposal was mentioned as a possibility. Other members observed that technology such as Skype, video/audio conference could be utilized to bring a quorum of Senate Councilors together to conduct business and act on behalf of the Senate. Long asked if the Senate Curricular Affairs committee should also be prepared to meet over the summer. There was support for having a Senate Council meeting on the Senate calendar for mid-June should the need arise. Yarnal was encouraged to have this discussion at a future Senate Council meeting.

Requests by senators to change committee assignments: Yarnal asked CCR members for their thoughts about responding to requests to change Senate committee assignments, noting that two such requests had been received in the Senate office in the past week. Both senators asked to change their committee assignments. It was noted that both senators had participated in the spring committee preference process. CC&R members supported having the two senators retain their committee assignments made by CC&R.

Other Topics for Discussion: Yarnal provided a brief overview of the continuing discussions regarding the “Take Care of Your Health” initiative. Hinchey asked about University-wide communication regarding the change in the annual salary increase from July to October. Several CC&R members recalled a Newswire article, while others commented that President Erickson announced this at a spring 2013 Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Susan C. Youtz