COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES AND RULES
2013-2014 Meeting #3 December 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

Members Absent: None

Chair Cynthia Robinson called the meeting to order and requested approval of the October 22, 2013 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously. Robinson provided a brief overview of the Officers and Chairs meeting noting: Committee reports on Engaged Scholarship are due on December 20. JCIB was informed that PSU has the highest default rate (48%) on loans against TIAA retirement accounts. OHR will be developing policy to restrict loans. A comment was made that borrowing against retirement could be a symptom of employees receiving low salaries. JCIB wants more data on distribution of income and loan amounts.

Old Business

Revision to Senate Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, Delegation of Authority: Physician Assistant MS program: This will be presented at the afternoon plenary session and acted on at the January Senate meeting.

Implementation of Senate Self-Study committee recommendations; revisions to Bylaws and Standing Rules: Extensive discussion occurred on the draft revisions that had been distributed as an email attachment. Keith Shapiro and Robin Bower, members of the subcommittee, recorded suggested changes and will provide those changes to the subcommittee for further consideration and modification of the draft. Major points of discussion were as follows:

Recommendation #1: Move the phrase about adequate preparation at the beginning of the paragraph, not at the end.

No changes in Recommendation #5

Recommendation #6: Considerable discussion about the intent of the self-study task force and the desire to increase expectations of senators in fulfilling their duties. It was decided to remove the ‘out clause’ that lists the exemptions and to repeat the wording about three or more absences in b) Attend assigned committee meetings. Units likely need to be reminded to check the Senate web site for attendance records of their senators.

Recommendations #2, 3, 4, 7: Remove reference to Senate Newsletter, which is not described in current Bylaws.

Retired Senator Election:
S. Youtz reviewed the procedure. The roster was reviewed. It was agreed that CC&R needs to review the rule that restricts eligibility to faculty in contiguous states, since electronic participation in committee and
plenary meetings is available. Typically two or three nominations are received for the ballot. CC&R members should submit nominations to Youtz or Hagen. The retired senator election will conducted in late January.

**New Business:**

**Overview of Nominations for Faculty Rights & Responsibilities, University Promotion & Tenure, Standing Joint Committee on Tenure:**

Nominations should be submitted to Youtz or Hagen, or brought to the January CC&R meeting. The ballot for these committees will be presented at the March meeting.

**2014-15 Census:**

The census was reviewed. It was noted that the total number of senators will be 198 in 2013-14, one less than this year and two less than the target, due to rounding. CC&R should monitor the total in subsequent years to be certain the allocation does not stray far (under or over) from the target. Strauss commented on the high number of senators from Medicine and the small number of committees to which Medicine senators are assigned. He suggested alternate methods for allocating seats, perhaps to include number of students in a college, should be considered. It was pointed out that World Campus (WD) enrollments are under colleges/programs, because WD is not a physical campus, so there is no faculty organization.

**Standing Rules, Article I, Section 7 (c and g) Requesting the privilege of the floor:**

The committee voted to develop a Legislative Report that would change from four to five days the period to request privilege of the floor regarding Senate business items.

**Recommendation from University Ombudsperson to change the name of University Ombudsperson to University Faculty Ombudsperson or Faculty Ombudsperson**

Deborah Atwater, the current Ombudsperson, requested that the word “Faculty” be added to the title. Currently she receives requests from staff members to address issues; those issues are not under her jurisdiction. The committee voted to prepare a Legislative report that would change the title to University Faculty Ombudsperson.

**Other Topics for Discussion:**

The issue of FT2 faculty work hours vs. credits taught has been raised with regard to the Affordable Care Act. PSU considers 1 credit to reflect 3 hours of work weekly; no distinction between lecture, lab, and studio courses, or multiple section courses. A load of 9 credits for an FT2 is considered part-time (27 hours). Yarnal will name a task force, to include members of FA, FB, JCIB, GSA, UPUA, office of the General Council. Medicine and others as appropriate, to study this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Submitted by Dan Hagen