

Senate Executive Committee Meeting – Joint Meeting with Committee Chairs
October 9, 2007
BBS Room 101

Attendance: Don Sandley (Chair), Robin Snyder (Vice Chair), Michael Hogue (Secretary), Tim Banks (EC Member at Large), Kathryn Fouse (UCC Committee Chair), Nancy Whitt (Diversity Committee Co-Chair), Joe Scrivner (Diversity Committee Co-Chair), Greg Kawell (Athletics Committee Chair), Cynthia Lohrke (BA & FW Committee Chair), Ken Kirby (Student Affairs, Religious Life and University Relations Committee Chair), Jim Rayburn (Academic Affairs Committee Chair), Brad Creed (Provost)

Don Sandley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The committee chairs were then asked to report on their progress towards their charge of reviewing their committee's function, structure, and handbook description.

The diversity committee has set a November 9th goal to have revised language for the faculty handbook. By in large they are very pleased with the functionality of the committee and the committee seems to have a good grasp of its work.

The curriculum committee feels that they are working quite well and certainly do not need anything more to do. They have finalized their suggested changes for the faculty handbook.

The athletics committee completed a comprehensive review 2 years ago and just had a corrected version of their charges and description printed in the faculty handbook this academic cycle. They will review this once again, but will likely not propose any further changes.

The student affairs, religious life, and university relations committee reported that there may be a real need to dissolve their committee as it currently exists. There appears to be significant overlap with academic affairs. The committee has become more reactive rather than proactive. There may be a need for a separate and new committee on religious life, as well as a separate and new committee on university relations. This will need to be evaluated further, and a formal recommendation will be made to the EC by the existing committee.

The business affairs and faculty welfare committee reported that they will begin their review on November 1st and will come to the EC as soon as possible thereafter with a suggested re-write for the faculty handbook.

Action Item (with unanimous consent of the senate executive committee): The Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare Committee is charged with pursuing with the university the provision of flu shots for all university employees at NO CHARGE to the employee as soon as possible. An environmental scan shows that offering flu shots at no charge has become a standard benefit in many industries, and the

benefits of offering flu shots at no charge (i.e. decreased absenteeism) far offset the hard out-of-pocket costs associated with provision of the vaccine (research data are available to the committee). The current “benefit” offered by the university with a \$25 co-pay through a very restricted provider network, when in fact the vaccine is offered by any private provider for \$20-\$30, is not perceived by the faculty as a benefit. It is suggested that the university examine alternative mechanisms for offering the vaccine to employees (i.e. via student health services, via nursing and pharmacy faculty and/or nursing and pharmacy students on one or two selected days each fall) which may be more cost-effective than traditional coverage through Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s health plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.