

February 12, 2008

Minutes from the Executive Committee

(Robin Snyder (VP) took minutes)

Present: Don Sandley, Brad Creed, Mark Bateman, Tim Banks, Doug Clapp, Robin Snyder

Robin was asked to send ASAP to the Handbook Committee members (Mike Floyd, chair; Jennings Marshall, and Mark Baggett) reports from all the senate committees on their proposed course description changes, so that the Handbook Committee could review these proposed changes. The executive committee stated that they would like to have all changes finalized by the end of this academic year if possible. (Note: Robin sent the Committee description changes that were sent to her by committee chairs onto the Handbook Committee on February 13th). Also, Provost Creed is going to review the Writing Committee information and it was, therefore, not sent onto the Handbook Committee.

Jennings Marshall had approached the Provost and Associate Provost and asked why the Scholars Program had not been vetted through the University Curriculum Committee. They stated that although 2 faculty members from the professional schools and 2 faculty members from the undergraduate schools were involved with the Scholars Program, it is a curriculum committee issue. Chris Metress (Academic Affairs) will call Jennings today and make a formal recommendation for the senate and bring it to the next senate meeting. (Mark Bateman will ask Chris to do this).

Also, DNP (Dr. of Nursing Program) did not go through curriculum committee. Trustees have already approved it (they have approved program but not curriculum). Nena Sanders has been asked to submit information to the Curriculum Committee immediately. Brad and Mark apologized for not making sure it went through Curriculum Committee prior to presenting this to trustees.

Brad suggested that instead of having a Writing Committee that a Teaching and Learning Assessment Committee be formed at the university level with a Teaching and Learning Assessment Committee to be part of the various Curriculum Committees at the school level. This would be more in keeping with SACS expectations and suggestions. Brad will report the results of his Writing Committee findings at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Robin was asked to send Mike Floyd information on a service provided by the AAUP's national staff. They will review proposed revisions to faculty handbooks and give feedback. The Handbook Committee can decide if this is a service that they would like to take advantage of.

Don asked that on the interim years that deans are assessed (they are assessed on a 3 year rotation) that a "mini evaluation" be provided to the Provost by all the department chairs. After some discussion this idea met with approval. Brad asked that he have a little time to study it.

Academic Integrity... Patrick Baggett representing SGA, as well as Steve Epley, John Venable, and the Senate EC will all be in process of vetting academic integrity. Everything will be approved by senate. The process will engage the faculty as well as preserving their authority and autonomy.

There was some discussion about how graduation would be done in May to accommodate all of the graduates in the Pete Hannah Arena. Brad reported that plans were underway to handle the large number of graduates and when the plans are finalized they will be announced.

