

Rules, Procedure, and Agenda (RP&A) Committee
Meeting Minutes, 15 March 2016
2:00-3:30 p.m., Library 202

Members present: D. Ahmad, M. Bohner, M. Bruening, M. Fitch, L. Gragg, B. Hale, T. Schuman, S. Sedighsarvestani, M. Zawodniok, Z. Woolsey

- I. Call to order, minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting were approved.
- II. The following agenda for the March 24, 2016 Faculty Senate Meeting was approved:
 - i. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - ii. Approval of February 18, 2016 minutes
 - iii. Campus Reports and Responses
 - a. President Pro Tem's Report T. Schuman (5 min.)
 - b. Administrative Reports
 1. Chancellor's Report C. Schrader (7 min.)
 2. Provost's Report R. Marley (7 min.)
 - c. Staff Council Report J. Boehm (3 min.)
 - d. Student Council A. McMikle (3 min.)
 - e. Council of Graduate Students T. Goodwin (3 min.)
 - iv. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 - a. Curricula T. Schuman (5 min.)
 - b. Administrative Review L. Gragg (5 min.)
 - c. Information Technology/Computing T. Vojta (5 min.)
 - d. RP&A S. Sedighsarvestani (10 min.)
 - v. Old Business
 - vi. New Business and Announcements
 - vii. Adjourn

The committee discussed the appointment of a faculty senate representative to the newly created Chancellor's Council. One of the chief roles of the council will be to create policy. Dissatisfaction was expressed about the limited number of faculty representatives (2) on the council, in contrast to the number of high-level administrators, mainly vice chancellors and their staff members. There was discussion about the selection of a faculty representative, since there is no process currently in place. Mark Fitch indicated his willingness to serve on the council and it was decided that he would be the representative until mid-August, at which point the faculty senate for the new academic year could determine a representative. Tom Schuman will include Mark's appointment in his report for the next meeting.

Second, several items were discussed for inclusion during the RP&A report at the next faculty senate meeting. First, the committee discussed the resolution regarding Melissa Click's firing that had previously circulated by email. Michael Bruening wanted to add language about CRR section 310.060 on Dismissal for Cause, which was not included in the original resolution, and which also was not followed by the Curators. Zack Woolsey indicated that student sentiment would be against this resolution, as it could result in a negative reaction from the legislature. The faculty argued that Click's firing was a breach of the fundamental principle of shared faculty

governance, and a statement against it is imperative. It was decided that a vote on the resolution should take place during the RP&A portion of the faculty senate meeting.

Tom Schuman introduced discussion of the creation of a Graduate Student Funding Policy Committee. This would be a special committee of the faculty senate, whose main charge would be to ensure that funding for graduate students aligns with the strategic plan. In particular, there is concern that the proposed Chancellor's and Provost's graduate fellowships will be ineffective at recruiting outstanding graduate students, and instead, the committee will explore ways to create tuition waivers for graduate student assistants. The group has already been meeting, but it requires a vote from the faculty senate in order to make the committee official. There was discussion about the imbalance between the colleges among the committee representatives, but an additional CASB representative has been added, which makes the representation proportional to the division of graduate students between the two colleges. A vote on the establishment of this as a special committee of the faculty senate, as per CRR 300.030.D.8, will be held during the RP&A report at the faculty senate meeting.

Martin Bohner introduced discussion of the resolution from the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates' (MAFS) resolution against currently proposed legislation on allowing concealed weapons to permit holders on Missouri campuses. Several faculty senates around the state are supporting it. It was concluded to vote on a resolution in support of the MAFS resolution during the RP&A report at the next faculty senate meeting.

Larry Gragg updated the committee on the response rate so far on the administrative reviews and indicated that two additional reminders will be going out to faculty before the conclusion of the review.

A proposed policy on "pets on campus" was discussed. Stemming from complaints and liability concerns, the proposal will prohibit most pets and from being taken inside campus buildings and will prohibit the feeding of feral animals. Sahra Sedighsarvestani indicated that there are serious problems with the "service animal" exception, since there is no accepted legal definition of the term. Diana Ahmad objected vociferously to the proposed prohibition of feeding squirrels. There is no need for a vote on this. The idea is to get feedback from Faculty Senate which Mark can then relate to the Chancellor's Council, but it is unclear whether these types of policy issues should be brought up during the President's report or the Chancellor's report.

There was brief discussion regarding the running of the next senate meeting, since three of the officers will be out of town for an IFC meeting. It was concluded that Sahra, as the only faculty senate officer expected to be in attendance, should call the meeting to order and announce the need to elect a chair pro-tem for the meeting. Someone (Mark volunteered) should then nominate Sahra as chair pro-tem. Sahra should also call the roll.

More discussion followed on the plan for the faculty senate officer transition for next year, since the vote for next year's officers will be coming up at next month's meeting. It was concluded that the position of past-president is Steve Grant's to accept or reject, and that Tom Schuman should continue as planned in the position of President. Moreover, since Michael Bruening will be on sabbatical all year, it was suggested that Sahra should jump over the position of secretary

into the role of President-Elect, a one-year replacement should be found for the position of Secretary, and a new Parliamentarian should be selected to enter the officer rotation.

III. Old Business

There was no old business

IV. New Business

Mark Fitch wants to refer an issue to a faculty senate committee, namely the concern that in some departments on campus the number of majors is beginning to exceed the department's capacity to serve them effectively. It was suggested to refer the matter to Student Affairs, which may need to create a special subcommittee, as per CRR 310.030.D.6.o.(1), to look into the matter.

Adjournment, 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Michael Bruening