Minutes of Rules, Procedures and Agenda Committee
31 October 2017  4pm, Schrenk Hall room 144

Meeting called to order.  Mark Fitch was sitting in for Barbara Hale (Budgetary affairs).

Minutes of the 10 October 2017 RP&A meeting were approved.

Senate Agenda
A new order of Faculty Senate meeting was called for at request of several Senators, which was implemented in the 19 October Senate agenda.  It was noted that additional changes were recommended at the previous Senate meeting in response to the changes implemented, including staff and student councils be allowed to present so they can leave the Senate meeting.

Representatives of RP&A, Curricula, General Faculty and Graduate Faculty Council are to be nominated for Senate approval of a “Department Approval/Realignment Process” Special Committee.  Nominees that agreed to serve are to be presented for Senate confirmation:

- Jeff Winiarz  Graduate Faculty Council President
- Norbert Maerz  Geosciences & Geological & Petroleum Engineering faculty
- Gearoid MacSithigh  Campus Curricula Representative of Faculty Senate and Faculty Senator
- Levent Acar  RP&A and Faculty Senator
- Steve Raper  Campus Curricula Committee Chair

Committee charge: “To work with the Provost’s office to develop procedure for creation or realignment of academic departments.”  Time frame was not discussed but to be discussed by the Senate.

The Senate agenda was set, including ITCC, Budgetary Affairs, and Tenure Policy committee.  Faculty Senate meeting agenda for Thursday 9 November 2017 is attached.

Unfinished Business:  Referral i. The Committee on Faculty Conduct has no chain of authority and is in conflict with the Faculty Bylaws and CR&R.  The Senate is to be asked to recommend to the General Faculty to dissolve the committee for both its lack of authority and conflicts with the faculty bylaws and CR&R (i.e., is not a Special Committee as described by the bylaws in its creation, charter, or record; process is in conflict with 330.110 Code of Faculty Conduct).

Referral ii. The issue of furnishings being removed from the Chancellor’s dwelling was discussed at length.  The issue was referred to the Budgetary Affairs, which so far was provided an apparently inaccurate statement from S&T Campus Property.  According to UM System sources, the furnishings were apparently sold to the former Chancellor upon her accepting the President position at Wright State for the sum of $1500 by former CFO Walt Branson.  The committee decided to allow Budgetary Affairs to complete its referral but to allow UM System to track down the issue and appropriateness of sold university property.

New Business: Dr. Fitch remarked he was disgruntled by a recent award of Emeritus status to former Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion Shenethia Manuel, by current Chancellor Chris Maples.  Dr. Fitch signaled his intent to move for Senate condemnation that the appointment, which is in violation of CR&R (CR&R 320.090.A.4) stipulating prior departmental faculty appointment terms required for Emeritus status to be conferred to former administrators, was inappropriate and should have been referred to a faculty majority vote in accordance with exceptions provided (CR&R 320.090.B.1).
I Call to order and roll call

II Approval of minutes (19 October meeting)

III Presidents report

IV Campus Reports

   A Staff Council
   S. Dees (5 min)

   B Student Council
   S. Thomas (5 min)

   C Council of Graduate Students
   P. Bhowmik (5 min)

V Reports of Standing Committees

   A RP&A
   T. Schuman (5 min)

   B Curricula
   T. Schuman (3 min)

   C IT/CC
   J. Singler (5 min)

   D Budgetary Affairs
   B. Hale (5 min)

   E Tenure Policy Committee
   J. Cohen (10 min)

VI Administrative Reports

   A Chancellor’s report
   C. Maples (10 min)

   B Provost’s report
   R. Marley (10 min)

VIII New Business

IX Adjourn