Rules, Procedures and Agenda (RP&A) Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 7 January 2010
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Silver and Gold Room

Those whose names appear were present at the meeting.

Greg Gelles, Neil Book, Michael Davis, Lance Haynes, Paul Voss, Dave Westenberg, Klaus Woelk, Lia Sotiriou-Leventis

1.   Approval of 7 January 2010 RP&A agenda

        Approved

2.   Approval of minutes from 10 December 2009 RP&A meeting

        Approved

3.   Discussion concerning budget issues

        Prior to the December IFC meeting, Professor Schulz conducted a survey of the faculty with regard to strategies for addressing potential budget issues. Several proposed strategies with significant levels of faculty support were identified by the survey. These strategies were presented at the IFC meeting. Professor Schulz will report on the survey and the discussion at the meeting in the IFC report at the 21 January 2010 meeting of the Faculty Senate. The IFC report was added to the agenda.

4.   Referral to Academic Freedom and Standards Committee on the effect of large enrollment on teaching and learning

        Professor Haynes indicated that the committee was in the process of gathering data in order to develop a report on the effect of large enrollments on teaching and learning.

5.   Referral to Budgetary Affairs Committee concerning faculty input to the budget process

        A report from the Budgetary Affairs Committee was added to the agenda for the 21 January Faculty Senate meeting.

6.   Discussion concerning committees where representatives are appointed rather than elected

        Professor Haynes prepared and circulated a draft of a resolution that called for differentiation between the individual opinions of appointees and the collective views

presented by elected representatives. The resolution will be included in the agenda under the RP&A report for the 21 January 2010 Faculty Senate meeting.

A separate issue was discussed in which faculty representatives at committee meetings were being presented with information that was "off the record" or "not to appear in the minutes." Representatives should be free to disseminate information that is presented in open session and that may have an impact on the faculty. Since this issue affects all campuses, the decision was reached to have Professor Schulz pursue this issue through the IFC.

7.   Open House dates for the 2010-2011 academic calendar

Professor Westenberg reported that, in addition to the 2010-2011 dates for Open House, the 2011-2012 academic calendar may be included in the Public Occasions Committee report at the 21 January Faculty Senate meeting.

8.   Discussion of UM Benefits Committee

The decision was made to discuss the appointment of faculty representatives to the UM Benefits Committee with the Chancellor and Provost before setting a course of action.

9.   Discussion concerning standing committee reports to RP&A

The decision was reached to add a report from each standing committee to the agenda of each RP&A meeting. Professor Gelles will communicate with the chairs of the committees to advise them as to the expectations for the reports.

10.   Discussion of issues raised at the December IFC meeting

Professor Isaac indicated that partner benefits, conflict of interest, intellectual property rights, and revenue streams from patents were issues discussed at the December IFC meeting. These issues will be included in the IFC report on the agenda of the Faculty Senate meeting.

11.   Discussion of offer for a presentation by Vice President Rodriguez

Vice President Rodriguez has offered to make an on-campus presentation to faculty concerning benefits. The decision was reached to request that the presentation be at an open forum rather than at a Faculty Senate meeting.

12.   Control of rumors concerning program elimination

Professor Gelles noted that the budget issues had spawned rumors of the possibility of program mergers and eliminations. Methods to control or dispel the rumors will be discussed with the Chancellor and Provost.

13.   Agenda for 21 January Faculty Senate meeting

The agenda for the 21 January Faculty Senate Meeting was prepared and approved.

14.   Adjourn