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Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2007

Senate Executive Committee

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
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1.   The committee considered several requests.

   The committee considered a request from Jay Thomas, SOGS, to help streamline the six-step approval process for graduate programs by agreeing to place new graduate programs on the Senate agenda prior to their approval by the Graduate Council. The Committee agreed to place new items on the Senate agenda after their approval by the Policies Committee but prior to their approval by the Graduate Council since the Council only meets three times per year. However, if the Graduate Council has not approved an item prior to its reaching Old Business on the Senate agenda, the item will be withdrawn.

   Senator Mike Norris offered to open the first Senate meeting with a satirical song. Executive Committee agreed.

   Beth Sorenson offered to update the Senate about the activities of the Faculty Athletics Representatives. She will be part of the November 5 Senate agenda.

2.   The committee discussed parking on campus and if the changes requested by Faculty Senate last spring had been achieved. Tom Sudkamp will ask Provost Angle to address the parking situation during his report to Senate on October 1.

3.   Tom Sudkamp will also ask Provost Angle to address student loan consolidators and WSU policy endorsing private enterprise as well as licensing of the WSU logo and name.

4.   The Committee supported the possibility of a joint AAUP-Faculty Senate review of the proposed Research Misconduct Policy. At our last meeting in June, a Research Misconduct Policy was presented to meet the requirements of the NIH. Various of the constituencies raised concerns about the proposed policy and we hope that input from multiple campus groups will help to create a policy that is amenable to all groups.

5.   Executive Committee asked the Registrar to report on classroom utilization at the October Senate meeting.

6.   Vacancies on the 2007-08 committee list were reviewed. Various Senate Executive Committee representatives will work on finding willing faculty to fill our the few, remaining openings.

7.   The Athletics Council asked to reduce the number of Faculty Senate representatives on the Athletics Council. After some discussion, it was noted that the Faculty Constitution mandated the appointment of three, voting Senate representatives and the request was denied based on this information.

8.   Dr. Sudkamp discussed his desire to improve governance-faculty communications. Senate Committee's minutes will be posted on the Senate website and a "Summary" page has been added to the Senate website, making a quick review of important issues available for faculty. The governance office is working on the creation of an official mailing list specifically for faculty.

9.   The Committee considered a request from Jim Sayer, Dean of the Lake Campus, to hold a Senate meeting at the Lake Campus to show our solidarity. The committee was positive about a spring trip if the logistics can be worked out.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Zambenini