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Senate Executive Committee

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Senate Executive Committee Minutes
Monday, February 18, 2008

The committee met at 2:45 p.m. in 138 Fawcett Hall on Monday, February 18, 2008

Items of discussion included:

Academic Name Changes Policy

The Provost distributed the policy to the Deans. While it was not strongly supported by the Deans, the Senate EC plans to participate in further discussions.

The Senate EC noted that the Faculty Constitution states in Article I, Section 1.A. "The University Faculty, in consultation with the University President and Provost, shall formulate codes of operating procedures governing all aspects of the academic program, admissions, academic standards, student affairs, faculty affairs not covered by the bargaining agreements, and other fields of university operation composed of academic and professional subject matter. The University President shall present such recommended operating procedures to the Board of Trustees for their consideration, amendment, confirmation, or rejection."

Budget Concerns

Senate EC members expressed concern regarding the creation of centers and institutes and the effect they have on the general budget.

Submitting Questions to Administrators

The committee discussed the need to create a procedure for proposing questions to the administration at Senate meetings. *Any Senator is free to ask questions of the administration directly during the appropriate question and answer period of Senate.* However, questions that are funneled through the Faculty President or Senate Executive Committee must be approved by the Senate Executive Committee as relevant to Senate. They will then be submitted to the administration at least one week in advance of Senate meetings as a courtesy. The new procedures were communicated to Faculty Senate via e-mail.

Creation of a Free Speech Policy

Executive Committee has two schools of thought: 1) form an ad hoc committee to work on this issue; and 2) make this a broader, campus issue; perhaps even seeking out an appropriate publication as part of the common text for incoming freshmen to read for 2008-09.

The Senate EC discussed individual rights vs. public rights. The committee will look at both the national AAUP and WSU-AAUP websites for information.

The committee wishes to be proactive with this issue. Faculty President Sudkamp will discuss this further with the Provost.