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Campus Assembly minutes 04/13/1998

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Campus Assembly Minutes
April 13, 1998

The Campus Assembly met on Monday, April 13, 1998 at 4 pm in the Science Auditorium.

I. Vice Chair Margaret Kuchenreuther chaired the meeting in David Johnson's absence. She reported on his behalf that the Morris Science Project/Regional Fitness Center bonding bill passed the House and Senate.

II. The minutes of the 1/26/98 Assembly meeting were approved as distributed.

III. The Assembly discussed the motion to amend the by-laws concerning the make-up of the Faculty Development Committee. Michael Risku made a motion to amend the amendment to indicate that the Coordinator for Faculty Development would be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the FDC since the FDC regularly gives assignments to the Coordinator. Todd Neuharth seconded. John Bowers asked how the change would impact voting numbers and Roland Guyotte noted that the committee is older than the Coordinator position, necessitating the refinement of membership. The amendment passed vocally and James Flaten echoed Bowers's concerns about a change in voting membership leading to split votes. Bert Ahern said such conflicts were not historically a problem with the committee. The following amendment passed vocally.

Amendment to By-law Article II Section 3 A. 1. a to now read:
Membership. The Faculty Development Committee consists of seven members, including four faculty members with representation from each division, plus the coordinator of faculty development who will serve ex-officio non-voting, and two students.

IV. The Curriculum Committee recommended the discontinuation of two of its adjunct committees, Honors and General Education (Gen. Ed.). Sam Schuman noted that the parent committee was supporting the recommendation of the adjunct committees and that Honors would become an informal interest group convened by the Director of the Honors Program.

Bert Ahern asked who will deal with the policy issues previously addressed by Gen. Ed. Schuman responded that the Curriculum Committee already duplicates the approval process of all Gen. Ed. actions. Eric Klinger affirmed the idea of reducing the number of levels of approval involved in the process and noted that the new general education program course designations should decrease Gen. Ed.'s workload. Ahern then asked about Honors and Dwight Purdy noted that attendance at committee meetings has been abysmal, members are not engaged in the subject. Ahern wondered how disinterest in the program would be addressed and Margaret Kuchenreuther suggested using a better mechanism than a committee.

Brent Heeringa suggested a lack of student interest reflected a poorly-run program and Jeff Ratliff-Crain insisted that, if committee-like work is to continue, then the committee designation should

continue. Jason Anderson protested the dearth of classes fitting requirements.

Bettina Blake explained that the committees were created to provide a constituency for addressing circular concerns separate from the primary activities of the divisions. Ahern asked about the recommendations in the last external review. Schuman remembered that there have been two external reviews and the question arose whether the committee structure serves Honors well. Schuman reminded the Assembly that of all the adjunct committees, these are the only two that have been recommended for elimination in response to the Consultative Committees mandate to explore committee reduction. Ted Underwood added that Gen. Ed. was created for implementation, not perpetuity. But Greg Thorson suggested that a program's place at an institution is linked to its structural status.

Kuchenreuther reminded the Assembly that there is a director for the Honors Program and Purdy added that a student advisory group also exists. Jack Imholte suggested that Gen. Ed. was intended to dissolve but not Honors. Sean Lazenby asked which students serve on the advisory group and was referred to Andrea Wojtanowicz. The Executive Committee will revisit the issue, which will come for action at a later meeting.

V. The following elections were held.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1-year terms, no limitations on terms)

Vice Chair: Margaret Kuchenreuther

Secretary: Edith Borchardt

Faculty/P&A #1: Jon Anderson

Faculty/P&A #2: Bart Finzel

USA representative and student elections are pending.

PARLIAMENTARIAN (1-year terms, no limitations on terms)

Roland Guyotte (who notes he will be on leave WQ 99)

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (2-year terms, 3 consec. terms max)

Susan Bernardin (1st term 98-2000)

Pieranna Garavaso (2nd term 98-2000)

There was some discussion of the term "academic" as used in the constitution to delineate membership of the Consultative Committee ["There is a Campus Consultative Committee consisting of four faculty members (including academic staff)."]. Bert Ahern suggested that the use of the term "academic staff" was never intended to result in making all P&A staff eligible for the Consultative Committee and asked that this issue be addressed in the future.

VI. The Assembly discussed potential meeting times after semester conversion. Margaret Kuchenreuther noted that Monday 4 pm meeting slots conflict with many labs in the Science and Math Division. Julie Patterson-Pratt noted that the suggested times of 6:30 pm Mondays or 4 pm Fridays conflict with obligations of the theatre faculty. Bert Ahern asked if it was possible at this point to select a time and avoid all scheduling during that slot. Sam Schuman replied that course offerings

will require class scheduling from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Fred Farrell suggested a variable meeting time. Jeff Ratliff-Crain endorsed the idea, adding that 6:30 meeting times are appallingly anti-family and anti-staff. Kuchenreuther mentioned that the Executive Committee's first goal in considering times was to seek out the fewest class conflicts.

Jim Cotter pointed out the increasing number of hours a day that community members are expected to be at work. Roland Guyotte countered that many semester schools have evening classes and encouraged 8 am meetings as "brisk." Edith Borchardt explained that there will be a great many 8 am classes under semesters. Jeri Mullin added that the suggested times were based on quarter data; semester data are incomplete.

At this point the meeting was extended beyond 5:30.

Jason Anderson protested that Assembly meets infrequently and is extremely significant and is therefore a justifiable priority over other concerns. Barbara Burke requested more consultation by the Executive Committee and Sam Schuman suggested a specific time slot on varying days.

VII. Senator Tom Johnson reported on the upcoming Senate meeting on 4/16/98. Policies under consideration include degrees with distinction and/or honors.

VIII. Under old business, Bert Ahern asked for an update on the Chancellor search and was informed by Andy Lopez that word is expected from President Yudof shortly. Eric Klinger noted changes being implemented in the research process where grant applications are becoming more computerized, reducing administrative error.

Rebecca Webb