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Consultative minutes 02/23/2011

Consultative Committee

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Minutes of a Consultative Committee Meeting
23 February, 2011

Present: Naomi Wente (student), Nic McPhee (FPA), Bradley Deane (FPA), Laura Thielke (USA), Jim Barbour (USA), Nick Bergantine (student), Sharon Van Eps (USA), Mark Privratsky (student), Paula O'Loughlin (FPA), Jenn Zych-Herrmann (FPA), Jane Kill (USA), Zak Forde (student). **Guests**: Dorothy DeJager, Michelle Page, Jacquie Johnson, Leanne Dean (on behalf of the Executive Committee)

Discussion of implementation of the new Constitution.

Jacquie Johnson opened up the discussion by recapping the conversation in the Executive Committee, which took a "strict constructionist" approach. 1st task - new committees elected, with the steering committee being elected first at the Campus Assembly meeting scheduled for 8 March. Membership committee follows, then Consultative Committee.

Process: the steering committee consists of 3 faculty, 1 P&A, 2 student, 1 USA + 2 ex officio (parlementarian and chancellor). A call for nominations has to go out soon in time for the 8 March Campus Assembly. Any Campus Assembly member can nominate anyone, and any Campus Assembly member can vote for anyone (i.e., not just faculty voting for faculty). There must be ≥1 nominees than openings to be filled.

How will the nominations be sought? By e-mail to all Campus Assembly members. Nominees have to be Campus Assembly members (with the exception of nominees to the Consultative Committee). Someone has to verify that those nominated are willing to serve. It was noted that the membership committee will take over this task in the future; this first year is fraught with unique issues as the new constitution is installed. For example, for the student membership nominations have to be made before elections are held. As a result, students may be elected who don't later win in the MCSA elections. The students will focus on nominating students who are current CA members who plan on running again. A similar situation exists for the USA members.

Voting. Instant runoff voting is the "totally baffling" addition to the new constitution. Positions must be filled in sequence. The process is "complex" and there was much discussion about how to rank and what is required in terms of a majority of first-place rankings (vs. a plurality). It was decided that a majority is 50%+1. Many "what-if" scenarios were discussed. The use of "clickers" was suggested, but we don't have enough for all members of assembly and there are technical issues that won't be resolved in time for the 8 March assembly meeting.

As the complexity of the process became clearer, a "dress rehearsal" was suggested, as was a comic video (I am not making this up). The importance of having many CA members trained to do the counting, and clear instructions (with examples) was stressed repeatedly.

At some point the question of "why are we doing this?!" was raised. Forging onward was the mantra. It was then noted that 1 March was less than a week away and a ten-day advance notice is required for nominations. Nominations are not allowed from the floor. Is it realistic to try and pull this off on 8 March, or should 8 March be the dress rehearsal? Then the question was asked, why are we holding the assembly elections prior to the student and USA elections? Because of the sequential nature of the elections, we have to get this ball rolling.

The next concern centered on the number of nominations; what if there aren't enough nominees?

At this point the minute taker had to attend to other crises like nucleophiles attacking electrophiles and the minute-taking ceased, although the meeting continued in her absence.

Respectfully submitted by N. Carpenter

Addendum:

Picking up from where the above minutes left off, the committees discussed next steps. It was verified that the March 8th meeting would indeed be an official election for Executive Committee. To help educated the Assembly membership prior to that meeting, Paula O'Loughlin offered to find additional information or video on instant runoff elections. Michelle Page would be sending out a solicitation for nominations to the committee. The option to meet again if any additional concerns arose was discussed.

Addendum respectfully submitted by J. Zych Herrmann