

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Campus Assembly December 13, 2011

December 13, 2011 (Meeting #5)
Executive Committee of the Campus Assembly
Approved 01/24/12

Present: Chancellor Black, Les Drewes, Dalibor Froncek, Harrison Defries, John Hamlin, Lynn Hegrenes, Linda Rochford, Cody Sizemore, Joyce Strand

Excused: Julie Westlund, Regina Zona, Ava Heinrich

Guests: Jeni Eltink

Joyce Strand, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 6, 2011, meeting were approved.

Motions

John Hamlin made a motion for the following proposal concerning the leadership of standing committees. The motion is to follow past practice of electing faculty members to those positions. Until we can discuss the issue more completely and decide if a constitutional change is necessary. Motion was seconded by Linda Rochford for discussion purposes only.

At a previous meeting, ECCA discussed each standing committee's membership (10/4/11 approved minutes). The group had consensus on all the standing committees except for the Educational Policy Committee (EPC). We discussed EPC following past practice instead of interrupting their process of moving their vice chair into the chair position that was generally held by a faculty member. It was brought to Linda Rochford's attention that at some time EPC was chaired by a non-faculty member. Before we discuss a motion on following past practice, we need to know what past practice is. The committee also noted that EPC (memo dated 9/2/11 from A. Schokker) gave ECCA the issue on clarifying committee leadership and updating the constitution.

Lynn Hegrenes opposed the motion. The Constitution/Bylaws state that ECCA will appoint the chair or vice chair of the standing committees. The committee itself manages their election. ECCA should let EPC handle their election until ECCA can have further discussion.

Joyce questioned the "ECCA Emergency Ballot" title used on an email. Where did that terminology come from as it was not on the original email distributed by Wendy. A possible explanation is that an unscheduled meeting was called. The minutes reflect that this was not an "ECCA Emergency Ballot," but a meeting called to discuss motions that were presented. ECCA was not notified that EPC was holding an election for a vice chair position. Members of ECCA were not happy with the process as we did not have an opportunity to discuss the motions firsthand.

The issues brought to ECCA should not be broadcast to campus before ECCA has discussion. There was a lack of respect shown by ECCA representatives for the process. Chancellor Black stated that this was an unfortunate and non productive situation. This is an opportunity to remind those of committee responsibilities and find the balance between confidentiality and communication outside of the committee.

Lynn Hegrenes asked what happens if ECCA decides EPC cannot elect a staff representative. There is nothing in the constitution that states leadership roles. EPC has a past practice of the vice chair becoming the chair. That past practice eliminates people from being elected (P&A, Civil Service). The vice chair automatically fulfilling the chair role is not part of the constitution. John stated that we should keep past practice (electing faculty to vice chair and chair positions) until ECCA can make a decision on the leadership of the standing committees. Also noted is that ECCA was not aware of the EPC election to be held on 12/14/11. ECCA received no communication from EPC stating they were holding an election.

ECCA discussed solutions that will give us the leadership we need with least amount of angst and what could have been done differently to have had better communication. ECCA can amend the motion to state that we are reviewing the constitution, standing committee roles, election procedures, etc. and that review will not be complete until spring 2012. Dalibor noted that there is no difference if we adopt a motion. The end result is the same. In January, ECCA will need to appoint a new chair for EPC. By following past practice we will appoint the current vice chair. In choosing not to make a decision, we are stating that we are continuing past practice and furthering our discussion.

ECCA needs to send a message to EPC that we were given the task of clarifying standing committee leadership; we know this is a serious discussion and we are currently discussing. ECCA interprets the constitution and if changes need to be made then the issues will be brought to the Campus Assembly for decision making.

John Hamlin withdrew his motion and Linda Rochford seconded. A letter will be sent to the chair of EPC.

Motion

John Hamlin has made a motion for the following proposal concerning the representation on the Educational Policy Committee. The motion is to change the membership of the Educational Policy Committee to faculty only with possibly non-voting representatives from EVCAA and PA/Civil Service with invitations to those concerned when issues arise that impact them.

No second on the motion; the motion died.

Les Drewes questioned the context as to why the motion was made at this time. John explained that ECCA was currently discussing standing committee membership and leadership in previous meetings. Also, in the last couple of years there is interest in changing the governance structure to that of a faculty senate system. The concern for faculty is academic issues. Lynn pointed out that faculty are represented on the standing committees.

Cody questioned the reason for wanting to move to faculty senate. One reason is that it irks faculty when they hear that "everyone is an educator." Faculty has been specifically trained to educate. There also is no place for faculty to get together and discuss these types of issues. In the previous administration, faculty was not heard. Faculty is cynical about governance.

Chancellor stated that everyone contributes to learning on campus; we all have different roles. Previous admin faculty was not heard.

Constitutional Review

Jeni Eltink asked ECCA what it means to represent a collegiate unit, P & A and Civil Service Staff. Are you elected to represent your constituency so you should gather feedback or are you elected to use your own good judgment?

Discussion was held on the January 24, 2012 meeting agenda. ECCA will discuss the constitutions for Kennesaw State and the University of North Dakota and is there a need to form Ad Hoc Committees to further work on Constitution/Bylaw revision. Due to the timeline for reviewing the Constitution, ECCA will meet weekly from 2:30-4:30 until spring break at which time ECCA will evaluate progress.

Dalibor would like to create aUMD faculty blog or other communication tool to post faculty opinions instead of email. The committee decided to ask Linda Deneen to attend an ECCA meeting to demonstrate various blogs that are used on campus.

New Business

At the next meeting, John Hamlin suggested having a discussion on how things operate in ECCA (i.e. when do we solicit information from our constituency). ECCA representatives need to make the commitment on how business gets done.

Adjournment 3:35 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy J. Larrivy