

Wayne State University  
Academic Senate  
Elections Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2009, 1270 FAB

1. The meeting started at 1:02 p.m.
2. The following committee members were present: Joseph Artiss (Pathology), Karen Feathers (Teacher Education), Loreleigh Keashly (Communication), Frederic Pearson (Peace & Conflict Studies), Antoinette Somers (Information Systems & Manufacturing), Angela Wisniewski (Academic Senate) and James Woodyard, Chair (ECE). The following notified the chair they would be absent: Naida Simon (Undergraduate Programs & General Education) and Seymour Wolfson (Computer Science).
3. The February 17, 2009 minutes were approved.
4. The C&IT elections software issues and bounces produced from sending the slate of nominees for the senator-at-large election were discussed. Jeff Dunn worked with Angie and Jim to resolve problems that came to their attention from bounces and calls received from voters reporting problems. Some bounces resulted from inactive WSU accounts, full mailboxes and forwarding messages to inactive accounts. Calls from voters reported problems that were due to expired passwords and WSU account problems. Jeff fixed about 120 of the bounces; 82 bounces were not resolved and 60 of them are in the SOM. Bounces produced by the run-off election will be used to evaluate our "no-bounce initiative."
5. The results of the C&IT mock election conducted by Jeff Dunn were discussed. The purpose of the mock election was to test the simultaneous election capability of the C&IT software. Some volunteers did not vote for candidates that were assigned to them because they did not read the entire ballot. Additionally, there were only about six volunteers that participated in the mock election. Further evaluation needs to be done to demonstrate in a convincing manner the robustness of the software for multiple elections.
6. Toni Somers reported on the results of the mock election carried out with the QuestionPro Web site. She recommended that QuestionPro not be used for Academic Senate elections because of security issues and errors that are generated if a voter votes for fewer candidates than the number to be elected.

The report on senator-at-large election was presented. The polls will be closed on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Fred Pearson and Toni Somers will count the paper ballots; certify both the paper and electronic ballots; and select the four nominees with the highest number of votes. Angie will write the report on the election. She will place the four nominees with the highest number of votes on the ballot for the run-off election and open the polls on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The voters to receive paper ballots will be decided by Angie and Jim. A reminder will be sent by Angie on March 25<sup>th</sup> to voters who did not vote. Paper ballots are due and the polls will be closed on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The paper and electronic ballots will be certified by the elections committee on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

8. The database issues for senator-at-large election (SOM) and apportionment were discussed.
  - a. HR provided a second file using filters for 50% or greater faculty and academic staff that were used by Seymour Wolfson and Jim Woodyard for the 2009-2010 apportionment of senators by schools and colleges.

- b. The 2009-2010 apportionment is consistent with the 2008-2009 apportionment wherein a more labor intensive procedure was used.
  - c. Eighty-two senators are apportioned to the schools and colleges for 2009-2010 whereas the number was 81 for 2008-2009. The increase of one senator is due to the creation of the Honors College.
  - d. Memos were sent to the deans of schools and colleges and the faculty senate chairpersons on March 6<sup>th</sup> requesting that elections be conducted to fill terms that expire this academic year.
  - e. The apportionment will be carried out in the future by the Elections Committee as mandated by the Academic Senate bylaws.
9. Reports were presented on surveys:
- a. No progress has been made on the student opt-out & FTIAC not registered – 2008 ACT surveys. We are waiting for the Center for Urban Studies to produce the written final reports for the 2005 FTIAC surveys and 2008 FTIAC and opt-out surveys. Jim will continue to work with SAC on the surveys and consult with the elections committee.
  - b. Non-smoking campus - A draft of a survey developed by Karen Feathers and Naida Simon in conjunction with the SAC, FAC and ELC was reviewed. Karen and Naida will work with Student Voice to finalize the survey form and carry out the survey. They may consult with the committees if necessary. A survey report is due to the Policy Committee no later than April 23, 2009.
  - c. Calendar - It was decided to wait until late in the Fall 2009 semester to administer the survey so that the community can respond in a meaningful way after having experience with the new calendar.
10. New business:
- a. A member indicated that the Elections Committee should not be used to carry out all of the Academic Senate surveys.
  - b. There are issues with the current bylaws. The Elections Committee will review the sections of the bylaws that are relevant to its charges and make recommendations to the Policy Committee for the revision of the bylaws.
11. Future meeting dates were scheduled at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and the chair was requested to cancel a meeting on a selected date in the event there isn't a need for a meeting. All meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. and held in 1270 FAB. The remaining selected dates are:
- a. April 14, 2009
  - b. May 12, 2009
12. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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Approved at the Elections Committee meeting of April 14, 2009