Senate Reviews Actions By Executive Committee During the Summer

In a very brief meeting Monday, the secretary of the University Senate's Executive Committee informed the Senate about the committee's actions over the summer, which included endorsing two new graduate programs and approving a progress report on the Department of Sociology.

The Senate also received year-end reports from several University committees, including a review of the honors program. Based on findings, the Undergraduate Council has recommended several changes in the program.

The Executive Committee acts in behalf of the Senate over the summer. Because the committee had cleared up hold-over business from last year, there were no items on the debate calendar. Senate President Theresa Martinez asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the information items (e.g., the Executive Committee actions and committee reports), but no one expressed such a desire.

Since President Bernard Machen delivered his State of the University address prior to the Senate, there was no report from the administration.

(A special edition of FYI reporting on the president's address will be distributed shortly). So the Senate adjourned after meeting about 20 minutes.

New Degree Programs Sent to Trustees

In her Executive Committee report, Dr. Lauren Holland, associate professor of political science and secretary of Executive Committee, noted that the committee had endorsed a proposal to offer a master's degree in computational engineering and science (CES). CES is an interdisciplinary program that involves faculty from the colleges of Science, Mines and Engineering. Currently, the program offers a graduate certificate only.

Holland reported that the Executive Committee had also approved a proposal to establish a combined bachelor's/master's program in electrical engineering. Qualified students could begin working toward the master's degree during their junior and senior years. The undergraduate senior project and master's thesis would be linked. The requirements for the master's degree would not change, and there would be no increased costs, Holland said.

Holland said both proposals have been forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

Sociology Department Shows Progress

Holland reported that the Executive Committee had also approved a favorable progress report from the Department of Sociology. In presenting the report to the committee, Dr. David Chapman, associate vice president for graduate studies and dean of the Graduate School, had said that recent faculty appointments have helped the department significantly in its strides to regain autonomy and have its graduate program restored.

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During 1998-99, the department was given permission to begin recruiting master's students again. Recently, the council authorized the department to begin recruiting students for a specialized Ph.D. program in quantitative international comparative sociology.

**Legislative and Budget Priorities Discussed**

Holland also mentioned that Dr. David Pershing, senior academic vice president, had visited with the Executive Committee during the summer to discuss proposed budget and legislative priorities for 1999-2000. Pershing told the committee the administration's priorities are faculty/staff salaries, infrastructure improvements, improving PeopleSoft (the software used to build University internet sites), and library needs. He also expressed concern about a proposal to raise tuition 20 percent to cover a shortfall in the current budget.

**Recommendations Issued on Honors Program**

The Honors Program review, which was included in Senate agenda materials, was conducted by three University faculty and three reviewers from other institutions.

After reviewing the panel's report, the Undergraduate Council recommended that the program be more closely tied to majors. Participating departments could grant honors degrees, such as an honors degree in chemistry.

Student recruitment should "emphasize the importance of work in the major" and encourage students to declare and begin working in their majors by their sophomore years, the Undergraduate Council stated. These steps would increase the rate of honors degree completion.

The council also recommended that the program pursue establishing an honors residence hall with associated space where honors students can mingle.

**Other Actions**

Following are other key items that were addressed during the meeting or included in agenda materials:

- Dr. Paul Mogren, librarian in the Marriott Library, was appointed Senate parliamentarian for 1999-2000.

- In a year-end report on activities last year, the Academic Policy Advisory Committee discussed its intensive review of computer technology. The committee commended the University for its leadership in computer technology and the success of the Technology Assisted Curriculum Center.

  The committee recommended that the University "ensure that the efforts of several computer technology-related councils, task forces, administrative and university committees are integrated in coherent planning." It also urged an increase in user support "by distributing technological expertise throughout the campus."

- The Faculty Budget and Planning Advisory Committee reported that its primary activity last year was consulting with the administration on implementation of the New Budget Model. The committee reported that it had begun reviewing comparative and trend data on administrative and academic expenses. This review is expected to continue during this current academic year.

- In her Executive Committee report, Holland mentioned that the committee had reviewed possible changes to the academic calendar but decided not to make changes. The committee approved a motion encouraging President Machen to cancel classes for the University observance of Martin Luther King Day, January 15.