

**Academic Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
25 October 2011**

- I. Call to Order at 11:04
- II. Minutes from Sept 27, 2011 meeting approved.

- III. Report by Chair:

VP Finance candidate interviews are scheduled for Nov. 1, 4, and 17. The Senate Executive Committee has been allocated 4:00-4:30 each day to talk with candidates. The Provost would like the entire committee or a subset of this committee to be present.

S. Garcia is leading the update of the Campus Master Plan, to be finished by the end of this academic year. T. Nordenholz is serving on that Committee. This is not a full-blown revision of the plan.

B. Schmid looking for someone to attend the Provost Council meetings on Monday afternoons. M. Van Hoeck will attend in his place and keep this group apprised.

- IV. Standing items – all tabled for the next meeting

- a. Policies
- b. Informational items

Openings for 2013-14 International Programs Resident Director Assignments

- V. New business

- a. MT/MarOps department merger

The Provost announced the President's proposal to dissolve current MarOps and place faculty there into MT or MET, effective January 1, 2012. Much consideration has been given to this proposal, including a Meet and Confer with the union, as well as meeting twice with MarOps. Neither the Union nor MarOps has significant concerns about the proposal.

Under this plan, Faculty will report entirely and exclusively to an Academic Administrator (the Academic Dean) through an Academic Department Chair. Currently the MarOps budget is under Captain of TSGB, so MarOps faculty now report to both the Captain and their Chair, which causes problems in work assignments and evaluation. There have been several grievances filed related to this conflict. The new organization will make it clear who work assignments come from: the Chair of either MT or MET.

MarOps faculty will continue to teach. If the Captain needs help with special shipboard projects during the academic year, the Chair will assign based on current WTU, on a case-by-case basis. The Captain will have crew to do the daily work of the ship.

B. Schmid noted concern that with no faculty under ship operations, faculty will lose influence and input over what happens on the ship, which is a floating classroom. He noted the move of the Marlinspike lab as an example of a unilateral decision made that had a radical impact on teaching.

S. Pronchick suggested that we keep our focus on training students. The job of the Captain and crew is keeping the ship ready to serve as a teaching lab. The Provost noted, for example, that the Cruise Planning Committee needs to have input on cruise plans.

Question: since new and former MT faculty will have equivalent status, are all MT faculty eligible for release time for special ship projects? S. Pronchick: yes, but Chair will make assignments based on expertise, just as teaching is assigned.

Question: when current boatswains retire, how will that position be replaced? Chair will develop requirements and work with HR to conduct search. MVI classifications and all current classifications will remain the same.

Provost noted that you cannot set the same bar for scholarship in different departments. He would like every department create RTP guidelines for themselves.

MarOps faculty teach experiential labs, which involve practical skills as well as management, teamwork, and leadership. Also, grading students distinguishes these instructors from technicians.

Question: Will there still be release time for MarOps Chair? No. Departments are free to set up coordinators if they choose. Under current policy, MarOps will also lose seats on certain committees. Policies may be adjusted to allow for more representatives for larger departments.

The current cruise plan does not indicate there will be any shortage of work/positions for academic year faculty. Capacity of ship is 380, with 300 cadets on cruise.

Question: Does the cruise need an “academic captain” to adjudicate academic disputes? S. Browne mentioned a ship he worked on with a Captain and a Director who were co-equals, with the Director overseeing itinerary and other academic decisions. Comment that this reorganization is a good time to consider these issues. The Provost asked B. Schmid to bring up this concern to the Cruise Planning Committee and also to meet with the President on this issue.

B. Schmid suggested that we include the merger as an informational item at the next General Senate Meeting. Provost asked that we present it as a proposal; the President has not made a final decision.

- b. Rizza Lecturer - tabled
- c. Freshman reading selection for next year - tabled
- d. Faculty retreat - tabled

Meeting adjourned at 12:25

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Van Hoeck