

University Constitution Committee

October 15, 2004

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Meeting began at approximately 2:15 pm. Introductions. Chair reported that Eric Triplett had broken his hip and arm, and therefore he would not be attending for a while.

1. Chair distributed charts of the Policy Councils, Standing Committees, membership of the Constitution Committee and Steering Committee, as well as a sketch of some immediate pressing issues each had to handle.
2. Chair distributed minutes of, and reported on, the Meeting of Committee & Council Chairs, 30 September 2004 (Joe Glover augmented those minutes). Consensus at that meeting was to put Council Elections and other immediate business on a “fast track.”
3. Kim Tanzer volunteered to write motions for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting, in order to expedite establishing Policy Council election procedures.
4. The Committee reaffirmed the need for the Senate to vote on issues before the Committee could proceed with amending the Constitution and Bylaws. It also reaffirmed the need to receive explicit written referrals of our tasks (“marching orders”) from the appropriate referring bodies.
5. The coming year’s agenda was discussed, in light of the Steering Committee’s desire that the Constitution Committee deal with numerous issues. Committee discussed possible ways to proceed. The Chair guessed, based on discussions at the 9/30/04 meeting of the Chairperson Ramond & the Policy Council & Standing Committee heads, that the Constitution Committee might be asked to address issues in roughly the following order:

Redefinition of faculty (correcting two holdover glitches)

Policy Council Election procedures

- Establishing constitutional status for Academic & Professional Assembly
- Tenure policies (numerous revisions)
- New procedures for hearing disputes brought through the Academic Freedom, Tenure, & Professional Standards Committee

New conflict-resolution and grievance procedures

Ombudsman/Ombudsman Committee

Conflicts with College Constitutions

Set up other “Faculty Procedures Sheets”

6. The Committee has already been charged with writing Ombudsman rules, but since the Ombudsman would be under the new (yet unhired) Vice-President for Human Resources, it was suggested that addressing those issues should probably wait until the VP for HR was hired and had an opportunity to weigh in.

It seemed also apparent that new language for the Constitution would eventually have to be written regarding guidelines, membership, and jurisdiction of the new Policy Councils, since the Constitution is currently silent, or nearly so, on those issues.

7. Several faculty had complained about glitches in the constitutional definition of “faculty,” which needed to be fixed in order that some faculty would not be disenfranchised. Kim Tanzer said she had some old language addressing that and would try to locate it.
8. Chair distributed memos on the Academic & Professional Assembly issues. The definition was becoming thornier than anticipated. Joe Glover volunteered to draft suitable language, after checking further with Jill Varnes on the matter.
9. Elizabeth Dale volunteered to draft new language on Policy Council terms of office and election procedures.
10. Chair volunteered to speak with Tim Taylor of the AFTPSC regarding what they will be sending and to speak with Pierre Ramond, in order to try to get a clearer sense of what is perceived to be the “marching orders” for the Constitution Committee this year.
11. Meeting Schedule: Committee tentatively scheduled meetings to be held 2–4 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. The next scheduled meetings of the Committee will be on the following dates, subject to further discussions:

November 5
November 19
December 3
December 17

12. Chair volunteered to draft “sketchy” minutes for the 10/15/04 meeting. Christie Hennigan, the Faculty Senate staff person, has indicated a willingness to take minutes at subsequent meetings, whenever she is available.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 pm.