

Minutes of the Senate Meeting held 19 March 2004

1. Motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting.

Proposed: Brian Flick

Seconded: Lewis Lee

Result: unanimous in favor.

2. Kit Decker discussed the election process as outlined by Steve McNerney in the document posted to the senate website. Steve assures us that the ballot box will be secure and well-supervised and will try to have it available between 9am and 7pm on the election days. Lewis Lee made three suggestions:

a) that student candidates have a presidential-style debate.

b) that provisions be made for the recall of a senator in case the need should arise.

c) that there be a more complex voting system including a run-off ballot.

Students are free to pursue (a) although Steve is not sure that there is sufficient student interest to warrant organizing such an event. The Executive Council will review the current bylaws governing sanctions against senators, although wary of trying to create anticipatory punitive legislation. Lewis will draft a fuller proposal outlining the run-off ballot that will be posted to the Senate website to be voted on at the next meeting. It was felt that the student fact sheet advertising the opportunity to serve as a student senator should be more complete, discussing more thoroughly the duties involved and how that student should represent the student body.

3. For next month's meeting, the Council sought approval for its plan to invite chairs/representatives from the standing committees to share with us what their committee has been tackling recently, what initiatives/challenges they face, what they think about the number of people on their committee, how we can help each other in the coming year. The Senate has asked committees to consider numbers to see if they could/should be reduced. The Council also raised the possibility of having one of the three senators from each division serve as the alternate, thereby making membership a little more streamlined.

4. Elections for staff/faculty senators to replace outgoing members will be held at our next meeting. Deans and outgoing members have been encouraged to seek likely replacements and encourage them to attend the meeting. Outgoing senators are encouraged to consider re-election to a full three-year term.

5. May meeting. We will not hold a full meeting in May but as a trial run, we will use the Blackboard discussion board as the virtual forum for our deliberations.

6. Summer meetings. A list of proposals for conducting such business as might arise over the summer is posted on the Blackboard discussion board.

Motion: That the Executive Council use the above mentioned discussion board to gather consensus from senators on any business that requires action over the summer.

Proposed: Brian Flick

Seconded: senator

Result: approved

It was also agreed that the quorum for the Executive Council should be five members. It was further agreed that the Chair should notify all senators by email as and when any questions are posted to the discussion board with a deadline for response.

7. There was a request for volunteers to write a short certificate of thanks to Dick Harrington in recognition of his work to create the Senate. Lee Fargo and Kathy Hudson will take care of the wording.
8. Next meeting will be held 23 April, 2.30pm, Room 248. Standing committee representatives will be invited to attend.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 3.20pm.