

## MINUTES

### FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2003

Members present: Roger Adams, Mary DeLuccie, Kevin Gwinner, John Heublein, Eric Maatta, Gary Paulsen, Frank Spikes.

Guests: Al Cochran, Kelli Cox, Becky O'Donnell

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. in Union 205. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without change.

Becky O'Donnell distributed a document summarizing the activities of the University Mediation Services office throughout the period October 2001 - August 2002, and supplemented the document with an informative description of her experiences as Director of Mediation Services. Becky also provided insight into the process by which mediators are selected, and about the smooth interplay among her office, the Affirmative Action office and the University Ombudspersons. Several questions were raised and answered, although a few were to be referred to Dick Seaton and/or Ruth Dyer.

Kelli Cox, Chair of the General University Caucus, provided the committee with background on their request to amend Section B80 in the University Handbook. Currently, only "general faculty" are empowered to either approve constitutional changes or to call for a meeting of the general faculty, and the proposed change would broaden this group to include all other unclassified professionals who do not have a term appointment.

Several concerns prompted the request, most prominently the inability of (most) unclassified professionals to vote on constitutional issues at General Faculty meetings, despite their participation in other Faculty Senate affairs. Kelli mentioned that the idea of having a separate General University Senate (as is the case at other Kansas institutions) was not attractive, since then both that Senate and the Faculty Senate would have weakened voices. Kelli also said that the group involved would mainly comprise Academic Advisors, University Counselors, Directors and the like of various offices in Anderson Hall, and some unclassified professionals in both CNS and the Library.

Frank saw no problems with approving the request, believing it wise to empower the disenfranchised. Eric admitted to some reservations, stemming from the rapid recent growth in numbers of unclassified professionals and in terms of deviating from the historical precedent of faculty members having delegated their authority to Faculty Senate. More discussion followed, and an idea to have the proposal posted on the Senate website for informational purposes was thought to be premature, it being deemed preferable to wait until the matter comes before Executive Committee. Eric noted that he had received some input from Jerry Frieman on the matter, and that he would invite Jerry to speak on the issue at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Maatta