

Regular Meeting of the University Senate

Manchester Center, Hazard Board Room

October 26, 2006

Attendance

Law: Lazerow, Chair; Horton

Arts & Sciences: Branch; Guerrieri; Lewis; Moran; Nadkarni; Otto; Pachence; D. Sullivan; Tsomo; Velo

Business: Gin; Schubert; Sumner

Education: Perrakis

Nursing: Ahern-Lehmann

Ex-Officio: Allen; Cole; Cordeira; Hardin; Healy; J. Sullivan

Student Representatives: Miranda; Vincent

Guests: Brian Canfield; Dobkin; Herrinton; Kendra Sisserson

Lazerow called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

1. Announcements (attached to the meeting agenda)

A. Healthcare insurance. The University will keep the current healthcare insurance system in force for the first six months of 2007. During that period, it will re-evaluate the options available, including RETA.

B. President Lyons: Lyons will attend the Nov. 30, 2006 Senate meeting to discuss the state of USD.

2. Approval of minutes

Motion by Branch/Perrakis to approve the Minutes of Oct. 12, 2006.

Vote: Passed by voice vote.

3. Committee reports

A. Executive Committee: Facilities & Administrative Cost Allocation Procedures (attached to agenda). Lazerow explained that the proposal, which has the endorsement of the Executive Committee, changes the allocation of overhead that is received by USD from grants. Currently, 100% of grant money for overhead costs goes into the general fund. Under the proposed policy 50% of the overhead would go into the general fund and 50% would be divided among the principal investigator, the department, dean, and Provost to be used for research-related purposes.

Vote: 20 – Approved; 0 – Oppose; 0 – Abstain. The motion passed.

B. Committee on Benefits Policy and Executive Committee: Adoption Reimbursement Policy (attached to agenda). Pachence, Benefits Policy committee Chair, presented information pertaining to the proposed policy. The issue was brought to the committee by a faculty member. Other universities have similar policies for adoption.

Motion to amend by Horton/Schubert to: ELIMINATE THE SECOND BULLETED PARAGRAPH UNDER EXCLUSIONS: “EMPLOYEES WHO ADOPT THE CHILD OF THEIR SPOUSES/REGISTERED DOMESTIC PARTNERS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT SET FORTH IN THIS POLICY.”

Horton said that many step-parent adoptions can be costly and equity suggests that step-parent adoptions should be included within the policy.

Vote: 21 – Approve; 0 – Oppose; 3 – Abstain. The amendment passed.

Senators discussed equity issues involved with the 12-month waiting period for eligibility. Pachence explained that the committee reasoned that 12 months of full-time, benefits-based employment would demonstrate a level of commitment to USD.

Lazerow noted three positions for this provision: first, an employee would only be eligible for reimbursement of adoption expenses incurred after 12 months of employment; second, no waiting period is required; and third, the employee may adopt at any time but would not receive the benefit until 12 months of employment has been completed. A majority of senators indicated a preference for the third option.

Lazerow said that the policy will be redrafted by the Executive Committee.

C. Executive Committee: Senate election procedures. Lazerow stated that currently new senators are elected in April with the new term beginning at the first meeting of the next academic year, at which time the officers and executive committee are elected. By amending the Senate constitution to require the executive committee to be elected at the first meeting in May, the executive committee will have the summer to recommend committee assignments, identify projects, and prepare charges prior to the beginning of the next academic year. The change would require a constitutional amendment. The Executive Committee will explore options on this question.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

David Sullivan
Secretary

Peggy Agerton
Recording Secretary