Chair’s Report
Academic Senate General Meeting
Thursday, 12 April, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMARKS ON THE AGENDA FOR 12 APRIL, 2011

In re: 4. REPORTS

A. Academic Administrators Evaluation Committee

AAEC received a strong response to the evaluative instrument (an average of about 170 responses/question). Under the able (elected) leadership of Professor Mary Kay Moskal, School of Education, the report to the Provost is in draft and should be completed and delivered shortly.

C. Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee (UEPC)

Senators have the UEPC minutes for Monday, 4 April, 2011 in hand. UEPC approved unanimously the well-crafted proposal to incorporate TRS 165 in the permanent undergraduate catalog which forms the Consent Agenda for this General Meeting.

The Committee considered applicants, and forwarded the name of the 2011 De La Salle Award recipient to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academics.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to an informational-cum-introductory presentation from Professor Barbara McGraw, representing the SEBA/Business Administration Department Task Force charged to propose comprehensive revisions to the Business Administration major. These revisions are moved in large part for the purpose of meeting American Academy of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) standards, pursuant to SEBA-Saint Mary’s application for AACSB accreditation. Senators’ attention is drawn to Section IV of the UEPC Minutes for 4 April: the scope of the changes proposed for the major promise significant impacts to the undergraduate College at large, rendering it likely under Handbook 1.6.1.2.9.2. d. at i. that UEPC action on the matter will be reported among the Senate’s actions Agenda, as soon as the General Meeting of 12 May, 2011.

UEPC has yet to address the Senate’s return of the Learning Outcomes and Rationales for Scientific and Mathematical Understanding and for Theological Understanding (cf. Appendix I to the Chair’s Report for the General Meeting of 24 March). UEPC’s next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2011.

In re: 5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution to refer Senate Action S-9/10-25 to the Board of Trustees

The Senators have in hand a resolution setting forth the reasons for invoking, on the matter of the Senate’s May 13, 2010 revision of the Preamble to the External Speaker and Public Event Policy, the Senate’s extra-ordinary prerogative, under Handbook 1.6.1.2.10, at 3, to refer Senate actions to the Board of Trustees. The resolution will require a motion and second ad libidum from among the Senators; adoption requires a two-thirds majority.
B. Adoption of the Learning Outcomes for the New Core Curriculum

The Senators have in hand the “Agenda and Procedure” document, which details the Chair’s intentions by way of conducting the faculty’s business in this matter (members of the faculty will find the document posted on the Senate webpage with the General Meeting Agenda). Consideration of the Agenda will resume with Agendum 31, “Whether to adopt the Global Perspective Learning Outcomes 1–2?” and proceed sequentially, unless a change to the orders of the day is moved.

C. Critical Thinking Language, Re-submitted by the UEPC

At the General Meeting of February 10, 2011, the Senate voted to return the Learning Outcomes and Rationale for the Critical Thinking Learning Goal to the UEPC for reconsideration. The Senate’s expressed concerns included (cf. Senate Memorandum of 16 February, Appendix I to the Chair’s Report for 3 March, 2011):

--Concern about the absence of formal logic [sc. among the Learning Outcomes]
  How would we implement a learning outcome specifically related to formal logic?
  What are the implications [sc. of an outcome desiderating formal logic] for departmental and core curricula?

--Include language specifying that students develop the habit of recognizing and questioning their own assumptions;
--Include language indicating that critical thinking skills are developed through stages of increasing mastery/sophistication.

Senators have in their hands the Minutes of the UEPC’s 14 March Minutes, setting forth CCIC/UEPC’s response to the Senate’s concerns and detailing recommended language. The Senator’s also have in hand a digest of the relevant originals from CCIC, together with the Chair’s advice on procedure.

This action item will require one or motions ad libidum from among the Senators.

In re: NEW BUSINESS

A. Senate Confirmation, Chair of the Core Curriculum Committee

Senators have in hand the nominee of a unanimous Search Committee, Professor Jim Sauerberg, for the inaugurating Chair of the Core Curriculum Committee. Deliberations, should the Senate require them, will be conducted in camera according to the rules previously adopted.

The confirmation vote will be by written ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. Cortright, Chair
Academic Senate