
Members Absent: J. Newton (Excused)

Others Present: J. Rebholz, P. Sheehan

At 2:00PM, Chair Kutz, called the meeting to order and directed the attention of the committee members to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting.

Ms. Czynszak-Lyne moved, seconded by Ms. Droes, to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Kutz paused to accept public comments. Mr. Fritter noted the anniversary of the execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti by the State of Massachusetts in 1927. Mr. Fritter commented that in 1977, Governor Michael Dukakis issued a ‘Sacco and Vanzetti Memorial Day’ proclamation that read in part, “that any stigma and disgrace should be forever removed from the names of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti”. Mr. Fritter also recognized that this week marked the anniversary of the bombing of the Sterling Hall building on campus, the target of the bombing was the Army Math Research Center.

Chair Kutz recognized Mr. Jake Rebholz for the purpose of providing a report from the Nominations Committee.

Question was raised regarding the selections for the Children in the Workplace Committee coming from the same department and having the same job title. Reply came that the committee reviewed a large number of applications and found these to be the most qualified in fitting with the mission of the committee.

Mr. Fritter moved, seconded by Ms. Meinholz, to approve Wendy Margolis as the representative and Nic Hauge as the Alternate, to the Children in the Workplace Committee. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Kutz recognized the Secretary for the purpose of a report. Secretary reported that an updating of the website is now underway and the Blog has returned to a normal publication schedule.

Chair Kutz reported that the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor, have prepared a letter supporting participation in shared governance. Chair Kutz also reported that a Committee on Chapter 6 revisions is planned to be instituted and will include one seat for University Staff. Discussion heard that an appointment to such a committee should be referred to the Nominations Committee. Discussion heard that a current or former member of either the Committee on Committees or the Nominations Committee would be best suited for such an assignment.
Chair Kutz further reported that invitations to the Fall Directors Breakfast have been released and that a Shared Governance Reception is scheduled for later that same day. Chair Kutz also noted that the University Committee will consider the composition of a General Safety Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Chair Kutz recognized Mr. Patrick Sheehan of OHR for the purpose of reviewing the participation policy regarding the Athletic Board. Mr. Sheehan clarified that travel to ‘Away’ games is not viewed by the Board as a requirement and therefore it is at the discretion of a Supervisor to determine if vacation time needs to be used or not. Discussion was heard that a better definition of what is reasonable would be useful. Discussion heard that the Athletic Board policy should be released at the time applications are called for.

Chair Kutz recognized Mr. Jake Rebholz, Congressional Liaison, who reviewed the September Congressional Agenda and highlighted the action which will be before Congress.

Chair Kutz opened discussion on the future of the University Staff shared governance structure.

Chair Kutz noted that at the Congressional Shared Governance meeting that he attended he indicated his goal of working out a proposal that would allow the current Executive Committee members to run in the 2016 Congressional election, while continuing to serve on the Executive Committee, up until a new Executive Committee election is held after the 3rd Congress is seated.

Discussion was heard regarding who would constitute the electorate of an Executive Committee. Discussion heard regarding the role of an Executive Committee of Congress. Discussion heard that the purpose of an Executive Committee should be defined in plain language in terms of authority and limitations. Discussion heard that that role of the Executive Committee is to address timely issues that require action prior to the next scheduled Congress meeting and to discuss issues in depth.

Discussion was heard regarding the current relationship between Congress and the Executive Committee. Discussion heard that the two bodies with separate electorates create a conflict. Further Discussion heard that an At-Large election leaves the current dynamic in place. Discussion heard regarding the current imbalance between the Executive Committee and the Congress as illustrated by the right of Executive Committee members to vote in the Congress.

Discussion was heard that by relinquishing the remainder of the Executive Committee terms, the intention of the voters who placed the office holders on the Committee are ignored.

Question was raised as to the current content of the Executive Committee mission as laid out in the Bylaws.

Discussion heard that Congress constitutes a diverse group regardless of the Executive Committee composition. Discussion heard that affinity work-groups plus an At-Large seat gives everyone a seat at the table in the current make-up of the Executive Committee.
Discussion heard that the nature and role of the Executive Committee is changing since the advent of a functioning Congress, and therefore should be reevaluated.

At 4pm, Mr. Fritter moved, seconded by Ms. Meinholz, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary