MINUTES
11.20.15
Congressional Bylaws Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT: N. Hilmanowski, J. Rebholz, L. Meinholz, B. Goldade, D. Popp

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: None

At 9:00AM, Chair Goldade called the meeting to order and instructed the Secretary to record those present.

Chair Goldade directed the attention of the Committee to the draft Minutes provided of the previous meeting. Ms. Meinholz moved, seconded by Ms. Hilmanowski, to approve the Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion was heard regarding the use of the words ‘election’ rather than ‘appointment’ to committees. Discussion was heard that both mechanisms are described in terms of how they could be used but it is not prescribed that elections be used for standing committees.

Discussion was heard regarding the advantages of a nine person Executive Committee. Discussion was heard that a five person Executive Committee creates consistency with the other Congressional Committees and everything should be done to lessen the differences between the Executive Committee and the other Congressional Committees in order to prevent the appearance that the Executive Committee is somehow unique, different, or superior among the committees.

Discussion was heard regarding exclusions to committee membership. Ms. Meinholz moved, seconded by Mr. Rebholz, to strike the language regarding exclusions based on employee work area of college, school and division. All in Favor with the exception of Ms. Meinholz who voted in opposition.

Discussion was heard regarding the exclusion of members of the Nominations Committee from serving on the Executive Committee. Discussion heard that such an exclusion was appropriate as the Nominations Committee is charged with direct oversight of the Executive Committee election.

Discussion was heard regarding Section A of the elections portion. Section A described the electorate for the Executive Committee as the membership of the Congress. Discussion was heard that the entire University Staff should participate in the election. Discussion was heard that the Congress is the primary representative body and is the source of staff representation and that Congress has the right to form it’s own Executive Committee. Discussion was heard that a body that will be performing the same tasks as the Liaison position should be elected in the same manner that the Liaison was previously. Discussion was heard that creating a separate electorate for the Executive Committee creates a division between the Congress and the Executive, which would repeat the present difficulties between the two.
Ms. Meinholz moved to approve Section A on Executive Committee elections, Mr. Rebholz seconded the motion. All voted in favor with the exception of Ms. Hilmanowski, who voted in opposition.

Discussion was heard on the election timeline of the Executive Committee. General agreement was heard regarding opening of Executive Committee nominations at the Congress Orientation meeting and closing them in two weeks. Members of Congress to receive ballots at home by first class mail.

Question was raised as to including a ban on compensation for those participating in shared governance. Discussion was heard regarding lack of knowledge among those participating in shared governance as to the compensation made available for office holders. Discussion was heard regarding how compensation creates equity with other campus governance groups versus how it may affect motivations to serve. Discussion was heard that a matter of compensation is a discussion that can be had between the Executive Committee and the Office of the Vice Chancellor but that the Bylaws document may not be the appropriate place to determine the policy in this regard.

Mr. Rebholz moved, seconded by Ms. Meinholz, to approve the draft Bylaws document sections 2.12 through 2.17. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 10:30AM, Ms. Hilmanowski moved, seconded by Ms. Meinholz, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary