MINUTES
University Staff Congressional Committee on District Vacancies
10.30.15

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Chilsen, L. Bilke, J. Rebholz, M. Monroe, M. Bradley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: None

At 2:00PM, Chair Chilsen called the meeting to order and instructed the Secretary to record those present.

Chair Chilsen paused to accept public comments. None sought recognition.

Chair Chilsen directed the attention of the Committee to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Bradley moved, seconded by Mr. Rebholz, to approve the Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Bilke arrived.

Chair Chilsen recognized Mr. Russell Kutz, for the purpose of briefing the committee on the methodology used to create the current Congressional districts.

Mr. Kutz provided the background of the debate that took place when attempting to create districts for the Congress. Mr. Kutz reviewed the various proposals that were discussed at the time including the attempts to create districts on a geographic basis and by job category alone. Mr. Kutz also discussed how debate took place over the size of districts and noted that fairness was the guiding goal in each debate. Mr. Kutz stated that eventually it was concluded that existing divisions should be used, such as OSER designated employee categories and bargaining units. Mr. Kutz reviewed how 12 categories were utilized along with UDDS numbers to provide greater detail and noted that occasionally new departments ID’s are added, such was the case with the Arts Institute.

Question was raised if Congressional Representatives can get automatic updates when individuals are added to their district. Reply came that such an option is not presently available.

Discussion was heard over the size of districts and the possible effect of expanding districts.

Mr. Kutz reviewed the workings of the website that provides district information. Question was raised if the changes could be made to the system based on committee recommendations. Reply was in the affirmative.

Chair Chilsen recognized Mr. Rebholz for a report on the progress of the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Rebholz reported that the Bylaws Committee was prepared to adopt a section on standing committees that would include a committee that would deal overall with Congressional districting and asked if there
would be any objection to this committee changing it’s name and adopting those duties. No objection was heard.

Chair Chilsen inquired of the Secretary the status of acquiring material to determine the potential cost of staging special elections for those vacant seats in a period after the general election of Congress. Secretary replied that he would have such material available in time for the next meeting.

Chair Chilsen inquired of the Secretary as to the status of providing Congressional agendas to vacant districts to inform them of their right to appear under ‘public comments’ at Congress meetings as they have no Representative. Secretary replied that a mailing database for each district is likely to be provided next month by the Communications Committee, and when available the Secretary would begin contact in the manner prescribed the by the District Vacancies Committee.

At 3:15PM, Mr. Rebholz moved, seconded by Mr. Bradley, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary