The 765th meeting of the Faculty Senate has an agenda featuring a resolution, an election to fill a term on the Rules Committee, a start to the three-meeting sequence of adopting changes to the bylaws, approval of some courses, 2 program changes, nominations to the Academic Honesty Board, and a change in the composition of a Joint Task Force.

Resolution on Recently Adopted Additional Restrictions on Certain Individuals’ Ability to Enter the United States of America

Members are fully aware of the Trump Administration Executive Order and related measures, as well as of the serious political and legal controversy they have inspired. The Rules Committee has responded to expressions of desire to make a collective statement with this draft. The wording has been chosen carefully in an effort to accomplish two goals: express our views and concerns while avoiding further polarization by using language that will appeal across current political divides. Populist politicians of all ideological stripes – far right to far left and everything in between – entrench themselves by promoting a sharp division of the population into supporters and opponents that is constantly reinforced with heated polarizing rhetoric. Responding with polarizing rhetoric of our own would only reinforce efforts to create deep divisions and thereby aid the entrenchment effort. We have sought to avoid this danger by combining criticism of the particular measures with reminders of the fundamental values that we believe the vast majority of Americans support.

Announcements and Question Period

Campus-closing blizzards slow down but do not halt our ongoing teaching and research. Thus it is reasonable to expect announcements and questions.

Election of One Member to fill an Unexpired Term on the Rules Committee

We will act to bring the Rules Committee back to its full complement of 9 members by electing a Senator to fill out the remaining term of at-large member Jim Rinderle. In deference to long-established understandings, he resigned from the Senate and the Rules Committee when he became an Associate Dean of Engineering. The Faculty Senate Office is aware of one Senator interested in serving. Other nominations can also be made at the meeting.

Bylaw Changes

We will begin the three readings of proposed Bylaw changes at this meeting, to be followed by a second reading on March 9th, and a third reading culminating in a vote on April 6th. Some of the proposed changes reflect the constant churn of administrative Reorganization, particularly the changes in composition of the Health and International Studies Councils. The reorganization of the Athletic Council adds the Director of Campus Recreation, ensuring maintenance of long practice whereby the Athletic Council paid attention to the full range of sports and other athletic endeavor on campus even though the administrative lines now have the Director reporting to the Vice Chancellor for Student
Affairs and University Life. Other proposed changes, particularly the descriptions of ex officio status on Councils and Committees, are efforts to clean up inconsistent language. Proposed changes to the provisions on Senate elections and Secretary’s duties, are inspired by desire to acknowledge the advantages of information technology for the conduct of some parts of the Faculty Senate’s work. The proposed provision regarding a Past Secretary is intended to address transition in a way that will help a newly-elected Secretary assume the duties effectively.

New Courses: Consent Agenda

As always, any Senator may request that an item on a consent agenda be separated out for separate discussion and consideration. It would be helpful if anyone seeking a separate discussion notifies the Senate Office before the meeting, but this is not required. This meeting’s consent agenda includes 5 courses recommended by the Academic Matters Council and 5 recommended by the Graduate Council.

New Business: Program Revisions

Via separate motions the Senate is being asked to approve changes to one undergraduate certificate and to approve establishment of a new Accelerated Master’s Option in Resource Economics. The name change suggested in the first proposal adds length, but the proposers believe the name better reflects the substantive content of the courses and will cause less confusion with other types of programs addressing Criminal Justice.

New Business: Academic Honesty Board

The changes in Academic Honesty Policy occasioned by shifting the formal hearing process from the Ombuds Office to the Provost’s Office mean a change in the source of suggestions for membership, but no change in the Senate’s role of approving the suggestions.

Old Business: Composition of the Joint Task Force on Student Success Learning Outcomes

This motion, agreeable to both co-chairs of the Joint Task Force, will add one Librarian to the membership, in acknowledgement of the Library’s increasing role in facilitating good learning among our undergraduates.

MJ Peterson
Secretary