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Committee Alternates Proposal

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Approved by the Senate: 3/25/2004

Not Approved by the Senate:

Approved by the President: 4/12/2004

Not Approved by the President:

Committee Alternates Proposal

Submitted by Jim LoBue

2/13/2004

Motion:

As is already the practice with the Graduate committee, we on the Senate Elections committee recommend that an Undergraduate committee alternate be elected each year from each unit to provide some flexibility in solving the representation and quorum problems described by the chair of the Undergraduate committee. The process by which this candidate is chosen should be up to the unit through its unit elections committee.

Rationale:

Our charge was to develop a solution to the representation and quorum problems experienced by the two most time-sensitive Faculty Senate committees, the Graduate committee and the Undergraduate committee. Further, it is primarily the Undergraduate committee that seems to be most in need of support.

Three problems these committees experience are (1) the difficulty in being represented by faculty from all units at a given meeting, (2) absence that threatens a quorum, and (3) the frequency of meetings (once per month). There seem to be two major reasons that lead to this situation. (1) The size of these committees is substantial. They not only involve two representatives from each unit, but also numerous administrators. (2) Related to the first reason, the time for the meeting is always late afternoon (3:30 PM).

Unfortunately, late afternoon meetings cause scheduling difficulties in many departments where late afternoon teaching assignments are common. It is difficult

for a committee member to find an alternate from the same unit whose schedule allows attendance on a monthly basis.

Since a faculty member will, in general, not know his or her teaching schedule by the time it is necessary for them to nominate themselves for a position on these committees, the continued stress described above will continue.

This proposal requires no bylaws change and can be handled administratively. If the SEC sees fit this item need not become an agenda item. This proposal can be mentioned during the report given orally by the chair of the Elections committee.

Senate Response:

Minutes: 3/25/2004: Motion re: election of alternates for the Undergraduate Committee

LoBue (COST) explained that in the past an alternate was not elected for the Undergraduate Committee, though one was for the Graduate Committee. The simplest solution is to provide at least one alternate in every unit for the Undergraduate Committee. He moved that the Senate approve and authorize the Senate or College Elections Committees to elect alternates for the Undergraduate Committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Faculty Senate approved a motion from the Senate Elections Committee recommending that an alternate for the Undergraduate Committee be elected each year from each unit; the process by which this alternate is chosen is up to the unit through its unit elections committee.

President's Response:

Dr.Grube: April 12, 2004: Following receipt of the Faculty Senate's recommendation at the March 25, 2004, Faculty Senate meeting by Senate Executive Committee Chair Marc D. Cyr, I have approved the motion from the Senate Elections Committee recommending that an alternate for the Undergraduate Committee be elected each year from each unit; the process by which this alternate is chosen is up to the unit through its unit elections committee.