SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
February 21, 2006


**Absent:** R. Mayden, J. Murray, J. McGowan, E. Engel, J. Donnelly

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<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION</th>
<th>FOLLOW-UP</th>
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<td>Call to Order</td>
<td>President John Griesbach called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.</td>
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<td>Call of the Roll</td>
<td>Secretary Miriam Joseph called the roll.</td>
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<td>Approval of the Minutes</td>
<td>The minutes of the January 31, 2006, Faculty Senate meeting were approved with this amendment: In the Report of the President and Executive Committee (EC), under Compensation and Fringe Benefits Issues: Paragraph 2, Line 4: add this italicized text: “…salary floors of tenure-track faculty whose performance has not been unsatisfactory by at least…”</td>
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| Report of the President and Executive Committee | 1. *Faculty Manual* Revision – J. Griesbach reported that the Senate Executive and *Manual* Committees and the Provost met following the Provost's and General Counsel's meeting with Fr. Biondi. There are few issues with the proposed draft; most pertain to timing in the termination and nonrenewal processes. Fr. Biondi also would like faculty attendance at University commencement exercises to be incorporated into the *Manual*. J. Griesbach reported that the reaction of EC members was mixed on this issue; however, they did concur that there was a place in the *Manual* for inclusion of the expectation of attendance at such events. Consequently, a new section titled *University Citizenship* has been added. J. Griesbach read the text:  

*In their capacity as citizens of the University, faculty members are expected to participate in the functional and ceremonial life of the institution. This includes, but is not limited to, service on academic and nonacademic University advisory and disciplinary boards and attendance at commencement events. Faculty members are also expected to demonstrate the qualities of collegiality, such as the ability to work cooperatively and professionally with others, in all aspects of academic life.*

He noted that this provision serves two functions. First, it encourages better faculty participation in a wide variety of University events, including commencement. Second, it serves as a criterion, as part of faculty responsibilities, to be taken into account in annual reviews; thus it may offset the focus, in some units, on revenue-generating activities and help garner greater recognition for faculty service activity. Comments from senators about graduation included the observation that some faculty like the commencement ceremony, but do not frequently attend because of things like the 90-minute wait in the cavern-like environment at Savvis Center and the need to stand for the duration of the wait. Some persons are simply unable to stand for that... | |
length of time, and no chairs are available. The EC will solicit input from senators regarding ways to improve faculty participation in these events, and will share that information with the Provost.

J. Griesbach reported that Fr. Biondi hoped that the Senate would agree to the removal of the provision calling for Faculty Senate approval of amendments to the *Manual*, but ultimately doesn’t expect this to be a major issue.

The Senate will vote on the *Manual* later this spring; the Board of Trustees is expected to vote on the *Manual* revision at its May meeting.

2. Faculty Senate Bylaws – J. Griesbach reported that the EC made an editorial change to the Senate Bylaws in Article II.2.a. regarding the “number and apportionment of Faculty Senators.” He read the modified text: *The faculty of each of the following groups shall elect their senators: Arts and Sciences, Business, Health Sciences, Law, Libraries, Medicine, Parks, Public Health, and Public Service.* This provision had included the School for Professional Studies as one of the named groups, but that School, now part of the College of Public Service (COPS), hasn’t operated as a separate entity for several years. The editorial change was made to bring the bylaws into conformity with previous action taken regarding Allied Health and Nursing as well as Social Work and COPS, following their respective mergers.

3. St. Louis Conference for Contingent Faculty – The Faculty Senate is co-sponsoring this April 8th conference; Webster University is the primary sponsor. SLU faculty Claudia Hilton and Jack Stretch are participants. Senators received a handout with program and reservation information. M. Joseph will send an announcement of the conference to all current SLU adjunct faculty.

4. ITS Survey on Learning Management Systems (LMS) – J. Griesbach reported that IT formed a committee composed of ITS staff and faculty to explore options in addition to WebCT in anticipation of changes to SLU’s current WebCT version. The committee would appreciate faculty response to its survey, announced in Newslink on February 15th. The original survey deadline of February 22nd has been extended to February 28th. Senators received an informational handout.

**University Committee on Student Conduct**

J. Griesbach reported on the request received by the EC from Sarah Klucker, SLU Student Conduct Officer, for names of faculty to serve on a hearing pool for this committee. M. Joseph provided background information about the work of the committee based upon her experience as a former member and chair. As S. Klucker was unable to attend, Dee Kauffman, Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life (to whom S. Klucker reports) explained to senators the importance of having faculty on the committee and distributed an informational handout. She explained the operation of the committee, addressed the frequency and duration of its meetings, and responded to questions. The ideal size of the faculty pool is 10-15. While diversity in terms of gender, background, and discipline is important, the major criterion for committee members is interest. J. Griesbach asked senators to nominate themselves or suggest nominees from among their colleagues. M. Joseph will email senators D. Kauffman’s handout to facilitate its distribution among faculty.

**Faculty Senate Elections**

J. Griesbach presented the EC’s slate of nominees for the April elections; senators received a handout containing the names and relevant excerpts of the Senate bylaws. Nominees for President-Elect:
Miriam Joseph (Libraries) and Matt Mancini (A&S). Nominees for Secretary: Tony Houston (A&S) and Diane Randolph (DCHS). Nominees for Members-at-Large: Steve Fliesler (SOM), Rob Hughes (A&S), Mark Knuepfer (SOM), Joe Leverich (A&S), and Jan Wilson (COPS). There are two open at-large seats. Should M. Mancini be elected President-Elect, however, his current at-large seat will be filled by the nominee receiving the third highest number of votes.

J. Griesbach opened the floor to additional nominations; none were received and nominations were closed.

M. Joseph will send short biographical sketches of the nominees to senators right after Spring Break.

| Old Business | None |
| New Business | J. Griesbach announced that the Provost will be the featured speaker at the March 21st Senate meeting. A Q&A will follow his presentation. R. Breslin suggested the EC ask the Provost for an update on Banner; he also asked that the EC explore the Best Practices Travel Initiative which is proving to be very problematic. S. Fliesler encouraged senators from multiple areas to provide factual information from their constituents regarding their experience with the so-called “best practices” travel policy, including its numerous problematic aspects. R. Chittooran raised concerns about international travel. R. Hughes reported that travel confirmation messages have been quarantined and said its time that the faculty be surveyed for feedback on the current operation. R. McGuire asked about ITS initiatives. R. Breslin asked what type of assessment mechanism exists to gather community feedback on all of the Best Practices initiatives. The EC will advise the Provost that he may be asked to address these topics. |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm. |

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam E. Joseph
Executive Secretary