

Minutes
College of Biological Sciences
Executive Committee Meeting
20 March 2009 – 2:30-4:00 p.m. - LS-223

Present: S. Bodine (chair), K. Burtis , C. Erickson, R. Grosberg, K. Kaplan, T. Murphy for Neelima Sinha, D. Myles, V. Stewart, M. Turelli, S. Strauss, Peter Wainwright (for M. Turelli), J. Wingfield , Excused: S. Schreiber, J. McDonald, Neelima Sinha

Chair Bodine convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of the minutes:

Minutes of the January 16, 2009 Executive Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

Stimulus package – potential opportunities – Ken Burtis

- The stimulus packages are coming in different forms, e.g., large CO6, G20, construction grants, ltd. submissions. The NSF put information on their website the week of 3/16. Burtis has responded to some faculty queries and will continue to notify faculty when he receives new information. NSF is going to roll out some major equipment competitions and presumably some construction type grants. One of the ideas that have come forward regarding construction is the old facilities in the basement of Storer.
- Burtis requested that faculty let him know of any other construction ideas that might be appropriate.

Nominations for Chancellor's awards are due to Diana Myles by April 15th and to Pat Turner's office on May 1st.

The Committee of Courses of Instruction has modified their bylaws to include the College of Biological Sciences.

The Cal Aggie Alumni Association outstanding student awards used to be by major and now they are by departments so the Biological Sciences major is disadvantaged by this rule.

- The Biological Sciences major is the largest major on campus. A department that has multiple majors can only name one graduate.

Action: Bodine will draft a letter to CAAA alerting them that the BIS Major and many other cross-departmental majors do not qualify under current guidelines.

MCB Program Review

- The final program reviews for the three MCB majors will be circulated to the EC via e-mail for the committee's recommendations to Dean Burtis sometime between now and mid-April.

New Business:

BIS Major Program committee – Ken Burtis

- The BIS major is the largest major on campus, however, it does not belong to a department. Under Senate rules, the dean's office should not be the primary guardian of the curriculum or the running of an academic major. In the past the BIS major has had a program committee to advise on pertinent issues. Dean Burtis asked the EC for guidance in establishing a new BIS major program committee.

Action: EC agreed that Dean Burtis should suggest a list of faculty to serve on the BIS major program committee for EC review and approval.

Proposal - A change to the BIS Major requiring that students declare an area of emphasis by the end of the sophomore year – Ken Burtis

- Dean Burtis asked EC to consider requiring BIS majors to declare their emphasis by the end of their sophomore year. Students could change their emphasis just as they can change majors. For planning purposes it would serve the interest of the college to have a better sense of where the students were headed.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that CBS will establish a policy that BIS majors are required to declare their emphasis by the end of their sophomore year.

Proposal - Changes to the Undeclared Life Sciences “major” – Ken Burtis

- Burtis posed the question, “should all of our students be undeclared during their first two years and then pick a major at the same time the BIS majors pick a track or should we make the undeclared life sciences major more interesting by creating exploration groups and courses that help them to discover what people do in different areas of science? “
- EC agreed that they would like to explore this topic further.

Action: Dean Myles will draft a formal proposal. Myles will talk to the department chairs and to Dean’s Student Advisory Council (DSAC) for a student perspective.

Online Administrative Information Module for PIs

- The Academic Senate forwarded an announcement of a new online training module designed to educate PI’s on their responsibilities regarding grant administration. The module was presented in a draft attachment to a letter from AEVC Bob Lossberg-Zahl to AS Chair, Robert Powell. The letter to Powell requested an appraisal of the effectiveness of the module by appropriate committees.
- EC agreed that a better solution to grant administration might be a compliance officer or adequate training of staff so PI’s can be sure that accounting is according to regulation.

Action: Chair Bodine will draft a response to the letter from Bob LZ.

Report on Graduate Education – Carol Erickson

- The Academic Senate forwarded to EC a report prepared by the Graduate Council on graduate education at UCD. Dean Erickson stated that CBS has already implemented many of the recommendations in this document including, more staff support, more block support, more money from the deans and more FTE for graduate programs.