University Committee on Academic Governance
Minutes
Thursday, December 1, 2005

Present: Allen, Baird, Banks, DeJong, Hughes, Melakeberhan, Peterson, Rosser, Smith;
Others: Harrison, Wright

Guest: Michael Kasavana

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 by Allen.

2. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. Minutes of the meeting of October 6 were approved as distributed.

4. Athletic Council policy on game tickets was discussed. In the October meeting questions were raised as to the purpose and appropriateness of the distribution of tickets to athletic events to Athletic Council members. Regarding the function of the tickets, the question centered on whether Council members had a responsibility to attend athletic events; regarding appropriateness, the question was whether receiving tickets could be viewed as a form of compensation, so that there might be a conflict of interest arising for Council members. In addition to these two issues, there was an additional question regarding the relationship, vis a vis governance, between the Athletic Council and the university’s academic governance structure as a whole.

Kasavana spoke at length to address these issues. He reviewed the membership of the Athletic Council and its four subcommittees, namely 8 faculty, 3 students, 3 alumni, and 5 (non-voting) ex-officio members. Additional detail may be found in section 5.2. of the University’s Bylaws. Kasavana stated that Council members would like the opportunity to speak with UCAG in the future.

Kasavana noted that tickets are currently not entirely complementary, in that there is approximately 35% charge, to cover the tax that would be paid on the full price.

Kasavana added that the Athletic Council oversees compliance with Title IX.

Peterson and Wright asked which events Athletic Council members attend. There is a perception among the wider faculty that membership is considered to be an easy way to obtain attendance to the high-visibility revenue sports. Kasavana replied that no records are kept of council members’ attendance at athletic events, nor is there currently any mechanism to evaluate representative attendance. Each member may receive two discounted tickets to revenue events, and admission to non-revenue events is free with a valid university ID. Rosser stated that all sports should be represented, not just high-profile revenue sports. Allen added that an argument could be made for allocation of responsibility, across the Athletic Council, to attend various events. There was a brief
return to the issue of perquisites, Banks noting that many committees are rewarded with, for example, food, and suggesting that we need concrete ideas for any policy solution. Peterson summarized his concern with the current ticket situation, noting that if attendance at athletic contests is part of the members’ responsibilities, then they should not have to pay for tickets; if it is not part of their responsibilities, however, then they should not receive discounts on tickets. In any case, the committee felt that the Athletic Council should institute a procedure whereby members’ attendance at athletic events can be tracked.

University bylaws regarding Athletic Council were reviewed briefly. It was noted that this committee does not oversee Athletic Council bylaws (section 4.3.3). It was suggested the relationship between the Athletic Council and Academic Governance could be strengthened and should be made more explicit.

5. A proposed amendment by ASMSU to UCSA bylaws was discussed. It is currently unclear as to exactly how students are appointed to university committees. ASMSU would like to oversee all appointments of students to committees and has proposed an amendment to ACSA bylaws to this end. Given the absence of any ASMSU representative to this committee, it was felt that we should not attempt to deliberate this issue until such representation was present.

6. College bylaws review subcommittees were established as follows:
   Arts and Letters (DeJong, Melakeberhan, Smith)
   Social Science (Allen, Hughes, Rosser)
   Eli Broad (Baird, Floyd)

7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Baird 12/01/05 and revised by Allen 12/20/05.