

Bylaws and Nominations Committee

Annual Report 1999-00

June 23, 2000

To: Gordon Matzke
President, OSU Faculty Senate

From: Bylaws and Nominations Committee
Maggie Niess 00, Chair
Jan Mosley (v. Rusk) 00
Sam Vuchinich 01
Jim Males 02

Re: Bylaws and Nominations Committee Annual Report

The following is a list of the activities of the Bylaws and Nominations Committee during the past year:

1. Nominated two candidates for Faculty Senate President-Elect, eight candidates for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (to fill three positions), and two candidates for the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate. Two nominees were added from the floor for the Executive Committee. Henry Sayre was elected President-elect, and Bruce Sorte was elected IFS Representative. There was a 35% return of ballots in the President-elect and IFS Representative elections. At the December meeting of the Faculty Senate, Vicki Collins (Tolar Burton), Stella Coakley, and Rubin Landau were elected to two-year terms on the Executive Committee.
2. Referred to the Executive Committee the issue of whether it is appropriate to maintain the current off-campus Extension faculty to the Extension apportionment group or whether to propose that these faculty, like the on-campus Extension faculty, be included with the apportionment group that is their academic home. After discussions with several Extension faculty and review of the past actions that have resulted in the current organization, the Committee recommended

that the Executive Committee study the issue through a series of focus groups within the special units to gather the different perspectives and to engage the Senate in discussions.

3. Considered the recommendation submitted by Senator Cornell (CLA) to propose an amendment to the Bylaws to ensure that when information is scheduled to be presented to the Senate, an invitation is extended to those with opposing views on the subject so that information provided is as balanced as possible. After review, the Committee felt that such an amendment was unnecessary but did forward the suggestion to the Faculty Senate President and the Executive Committee, as our elected representatives, for consideration as they determine the agenda for meetings.

4. Proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The revisions included: identification of what constitutes a vacancy in the Executive Committee, clarification of the substitutions for senators unable to attend meetings, identification of what constitutes a vacancy for IFS Senators and a process for filling any such vacancies, and clarification of nomination procedures for apportionment groups. The Faculty Senate approved the revisions at its April meeting.

Suggestions for next year's committee:

- Consider ways to increase the percentage of faculty who vote in the election for President-elect and IFS Representative
- Consider use of email in the Senator election process

The Committee had a productive year. We have one recommendation for the Executive Committee in its use of Committee Liaisons. It is recommended that Liaisons assure that committees are informed of actions taken by the Executive Committee based on recommendations from the particular committee (e.g., We referred the off-campus Extension issue but were not informed of any action taken).

In closing, we were encouraged by the willingness of the faculty to be considered for nomination to Faculty Senate positions and offices. This willingness is clearly an indication that faculty governance is valued and supported by faculty at OSU.