

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

July 20, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bodnar, Borisovets, Cotter, Gould, Greenhut, Kokini, Leath (Vice Chair), Puniello, Rabinowitz (Chair), Stein, Swalagin (Executive Secretary), Thompson

ALSO ATTENDING: Coppolo (Board of Governors Student Representative), Furmanski (Administrative Liaison), Kanj (Board of Trustees Undergraduate Student Representative), McCormick (Administrative Liaison), Szatrowski (2006-07 Executive Committee Member)

EXCUSED: Cooke, McCall

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee, postponed from June 8, 2007, was held on Friday, July 20, 2007 at 1:10 p.m. in the Executive Board Conference Room, Administrative Services Building III, Cook Campus.

1. Chairperson' Report

Chairperson Samuel Rabinowitz called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. He welcomed everyone, asking all present to introduce themselves. Following introductions, Rabinowitz offered immediate past chairperson Martha Cotter an opportunity to comment. Cotter spoke very briefly about that morning's Board of Governors meeting.

Chairperson Rabinowitz, noting that the Executive Committee members bring differing perspectives to the discussions and activities of the committee, said that "We're all here because we care about Rutgers," and that the goal of the Executive Committee and the Senate is to "build a better product and leave a great legacy."

2. Secretary's Report

Minutes: The April 6, 2007 Senate Executive Committee Minutes were approved as distributed by the executive secretary [<http://senate.rutgers.edu/ec040607.html>]. Minutes of the April 27, 2007 Senate Regular meeting were approved on behalf of the 2006-2007 Senate, which does not convene again. [<http://senate.rutgers.edu/042707se.html>]

[Senator Kokini joined the meeting at 1:28 p.m.]

3. Volunteer to Serve as Newark Student Member of the Executive Committee

The committee reviewed, discussed, and accepted the offer of Jonathan Becker, a Newark Law student, to fill the vacant position for a Newark student on the Executive Committee. Natalie Borisovets moved the acceptance, and Paul Leath seconded. Noting that there had been no nominees or volunteers for the position prior to, or at, last year's election, Senator Becker was accepted into the Executive Committee membership by acclamation.

4. Standing Committees

Selection/Nomination of Standing Committee Chairs and Senate Parliamentarian(s)

Ryan Cooke, SAS-NB student, had volunteered to serve as Senate parliamentarian. Subsequently, Yonaton Yares, SAS-NB student, had also volunteered for the position. The committee named Senator Cook as 2007-2008 parliamentarian. Senator Yares will be the alternate.

Resignation and Departure of Jozef Kokini

Jozef Kokini announced that he would be leaving Rutgers to take a position at the University of Illinois. Secretary Swalagin will solicit nominations for the Executive Committee position he will vacate, and an election will be conducted at the October 19, 2007 Senate meeting in Camden.

Committee Chairs 2007-2008

Current committee chairs' positions were extended for the coming Senate year. Margaret Coppolo was asked by Martha Cotter if she would be willing to join her as co-chair of the Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee. Senator Coppolo agreed, and the Executive Committee endorsed the placement. Several Senators were suggested as co-chairs for the Equal Opportunity Committee, and Secretary Swalagin will ask those nominees if they are interested in the positions.

[President McCormick joined the meeting at 1:52 p.m.]

5. Administrative Liaison

President McCormick delivered the Administrative Report, which included comments on:

- Board of Governors adoption of Rutgers' budget, including a 7.8 percent tuition increase for most students;
- concerns about the rising cost of tuition at Rutgers, and efforts to contain those costs;
- status of proposals to restructure NJ state higher education;
- the new capital campaign, which began July 1, 2007; and
- plans for his September 28 President's Annual Address to the Community, which will be hosted by the Senate.

6. Senate Budget Briefing

Secretary Swalagin briefed the Executive Committee on the current status of the Senate's operating budget, which has declined to a point at which certain fundamental operations are impossible. Executive Vice President Furmanski asked Swalagin to send him a summary and request for partial budget restoration, which will be considered.

7. Standing Committee Charges

Charge on Modifying the Senate's Standing-Committee Structure

Separate but similar draft charges from Gayle Stein and Martha Cotter were reviewed and discussed. Both charges would add staff issues and "institutional climate" considerations to the Senate's standing-committee structure. Stein withdrew her draft charge in favor of Cotter's, which was based on Stein's charge, and which was revised to read:

"Consider and make recommendations for modifying the Senate's standing committee structure and/or charges to include a means of addressing staff issues in an equitable manner. Consider the proposals submitted by the Staff Caucus [<http://senate.rutgers.edu/RequestToEstablishStaffAffairsCommittee.html>] and by Senator Martha Cotter [<http://senate.rutgers.edu/CotterProposalOnCommitteeStructure.pdf>] when deliberating on this matter. Consider other committee structure modifications that may be needed or proposed. Solicit input from the Faculty Affairs and Personnel Committee or other committees identified in the proposals or which may be affected by changes considered or suggested under this charge."

The proposal received from the Staff Caucus also included suggestions for modifying the Senate's committee structure to expand the role of the Equal Opportunity Committee to create a committee that would explore equal opportunity and other institutional climate or culture issues. That component will be added to the charge before it is issued to the Senate's University Structure and Governance Committee, with a reporting deadline of February 2008.

[Senators Gould and Bodnar left the meeting at 2:40 p.m. President McCormick left the meeting at 2:44 p.m.]

Charge on Revising Student Charter Trustee Nomination and Election Processes

The following charge on revising the Student Charter Trustee nomination and election processes was issued to the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), with a January 2008 deadline:

"Examine, and make recommendations for improving the processes and policies related to nomination and election of Student Charter Trustees, and for efficiently communicating nomination and election information to students and student governing associations."

In the cover e-mail issuing the above charge to the SAC, Ken Swalagin will include background information, as well as instruction to consult with him, with the Secretary of the University/Boards, and with student Senator Brian Spatocco on this charge.

Charges Requested by Budget and Finance Committee

The following charges were issued to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC). BFC Chair Menahem Spiegel will be asked what deadlines his committee would like assigned to the charges.

“Explore and report on Rutgers’ income from investment in financial assets and from other capital investments.”

“Explore and report on Rutgers’ income from fundraising.”

[Senator Borisovets left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.]

Extension of Deadlines on Existing, Pending Charges

Secretary Swalagin was instructed to ask committee chairs for revised deadlines on those charges which are currently overdue.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

Gayle Stein asked about the status and process of electing replacements for the staff Senators whose terms will expire this year. Swalagin explained that the elections are conducted by Human Resources, and that he would notify them later in the year of the need to elect staff Senators from all three campuses.

Martha Cotter raised the issue of what she described as the “assessment movement,” particularly NASULGC’s proposal of a voluntary system of assessment using standardized tests to measure analytical reasoning, and publishing the results. She suggested that the Senate should respond to that. Phil Furmanski said that he and a group he convened are working on the issue, and would keep the Senate Executive Committee and the New Brunswick Faculty Council informed.

[Executive Vice President Furmanski left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.]

Ken Swalagin summarized the status of the changeover of Senate faculty positions from New Brunswick colleges to the School of Arts and Sciences-New Brunswick. In keeping with Senate enabling regulations, faculty Senator positions formerly assigned in equal parts to the faculties of the colleges and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences-New Brunswick, will all now be allocated to the School of Arts and Sciences-New Brunswick. The University Structure and Governance Committee will continue its charge on how the SAS-NB faculty positions should be filled within the new structure, and SAS-NB will provide input on the subject.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Kenneth Swalagin
Executive Secretary