COMMITTEE: Calendar

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2000

PERSON PRESIDING: John Cramer

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Salman Abdulali, Mary Farwell, Roger Rulifson, Robert Caprio, Charles Calhoun

STUDENT MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE:

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Don Neal, Chuck Hawkins, Angela Anderson, Bob Denney

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Cramer convened the meeting at 3:30 PM October 18, 2000 in Rawl 106. Minutes of the September 27, 2000 meeting will be approved next time because George Harrell has not had a chance to review his remarks as noted in the minutes.

Don Neal (representing the Chair of the Faculty) clarified proposed changes in the committee’s charge: The standard meeting time should read "no standard meeting time" (this corrects a mistake in the first reading). The reason for a December date for submitting the proposed calendar to the Faculty Senate was to get the calendar approved in time. Membership changes are designed to reduce the number of ex-officio members, and give them a vote; the committee can have other administrators as resources but not as members. The senate must approve these changes; the second reading is at the January meeting. Discussion ensued on ex-officio members and the fact that they are very valuable members; Cramer pointed out that we have sent to the Faculty Senate the Calendar Committee’s wish that we want to have these members as true members, not just guests. Cramer suggested that he could meet with the Committee on the Committees. Don Neal said that the Committee on Committees has spent two years developing the proposed changes for Faculty Senate committees.

Cramer asked that we consider adding a statement concerning final exams for distance education classes to narrative description that is part of the exam schedule for the Fall and Spring semesters. Salman Abdulali mentioned that a sub-committee last year determined that the calendar committee should do nothing. Diane Henshaw should be contacted to determine what her wishes are. Angela Anderson noted that most of the distance education classes give final exams within the normal dates for other classes.

The committee then discussed the calendar for the 2002-2004 academic year. Roger Rulifson pointed out that a problem with make-up days is that the traditional calendar has make-up days and broken-up weeks that cause problems in some laboratory classes. Cramer pointed out that there should be an equal number of meetings because of classes that only meet on one day a week. Two calendars are under consideration: a traditional calendar and a modified calendar. The traditional calendar starts Fall semester on a Wednesday and would require make-up days. The consensus was that the Monday start date was better. Discussion ensued on when Convocation and faculty meetings would take place. Some suggestions were Friday during the day or Monday evening. The committee chair will ask the administrators in charge when they want to have Convocation. Chuck Hawkins suggested that we try to get the calendars in sync with the Pitt County schools calendar. Roger Rulifson said that Sosne (the previous superintendent) said that he doesn’t schedule his calendar around the ECU calendar, but we now have a new county school superintendent, Priddy. Chuck Hawkins said that there is ongoing discussion with Priddy’s office, and that perhaps something can be done. Bob Denney pointed out that Fall break is not always set because of the football schedule, we must be aware that the schedule may change. Denney also asked why the calendar is set so far in advance—is there are reason, or is it just tradition? Cramer pointed out that if we waited to do the 2002-2003 calendar next year, we would have to make sure that the calendar was approved early that year, even if there were problems with weather, etc.—we need to do calendars ahead of time because of the time required in getting them approved. Salman Abdulali asked why not do a chronological year calendar rather than an academic year calendar.

A proposed calendar will be typed up for next time including an exam schedule slow day (10 AM TTh) which can be used to shorten the exam schedule. Spring break should not overlap Founder’s Day (first weekend in March). Should classes start on Friday or Monday in the Spring? The consensus is that it is better to start on Monday the 6th, not on Friday, although this means a make-up day. The modified summer calendar will have a Memorial Day holiday and with final exams for first session and registration for second session on same day. The committee will meet on Wednesday, November 15 at 3:30.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.