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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2004

Miley Hall

Present: Joan Chapdelaine, Daniel Cowdin, Thomas Day, Carol Gibbons, Jay Lacouture, Johnelle Luciani RSM (Chair), Joao Monteiro, Barbara Sylvia

1. **Call to Order and Minutes.** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM. The Minutes of the meeting of September 21 were approved, after corrections were made. The Assembly Minutes for October 1 were authorized for posting and distribution.
2. **Sports Management.** The proposal for a Minor in Sports Management will be presented to the Assembly for its next meeting, scheduled for November 12.
3. **Internationalizing the Curriculum.** Members of the committee had heard that a committee is at work on plans to internationalize the curriculum. The consensus was that the Chair should invite a representative of this committee to address the Assembly and ask for questions to bring back to the committee on internationalizing the curriculum.

The committee adjourned its formal meeting at 6:25 PM.

Meeting with the Vice President for Academic Affairs / Dean of Faculty

At 6:30 the Vice President for Academic Affairs / Dean of Faculty, Dr. Theresa I. Madonna, met with the committee for a discussion of issues of mutual concern that focused on our academic goals and priorities. The meeting was held at the request of Dr. Madonna.

The meeting began with Dr. Madonna stating her reason in asking for the meeting. She said it was based on a suggestion from the President, Sr. Therese, and feedback she had received from faculty to increase communication. A member of the committee noted that faculty concern seemed to be more about style and content rather than its frequency. All in attendance agreed on the importance of communication.

Dr. Madonna stated that she had hoped to increase communication with the faculty by having a place on the agenda of each Assembly meeting. A discussion followed regarding the Assembly's policy (which is described in the Minutes of the committee's meeting of September 21). The policy, as members of the committee mentioned, resulted from past experiences when faculty meetings allowed little opportunity for faculty input. This was before the Senate (later the Assembly) routinely provided a forum for faculty discussion. Members of the committee noted that anyone is welcome to request time on the Assembly's agenda and that he/she need only to follow Assembly protocols.

The following are some of the other matters brought up by members of the committee:

- New committees have been established to study issues brought to the attention of administration, but there are few signs of progress. Responses from the administration, rather than the establishing of committees, would help to expedite the resolving of issues without adding additional burdens to faculty.
- A mechanism to increase accountability among established committees would be very helpful.
- The Workload Committee's report needed to be addressed but that committee was just "morphed" into an Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Responsibilities.
- We will damage our reputation and our credibility if major courses are canceled because enrollments are below a minimum and, as a result, students cannot graduate on time.