

**Minutes of the
ACADEMIC SENATE
Friday, 8 December 2006, 12.00-14.00**

Present: Yehuda Elkana (chair), Judit Bodnar, Eva Fodor, Julius Horvath, Janos Kis, Zdenek Kudrna, Roderick Martin, Laszlo Matyas, Liviu Matei (*ex-officio, non-voting*), Howard Robinson, Diana-Urge Vorsatz

Not present: Tibor Varady

In attendance: Jeffrey Lee (Chair of the Student Council), István Teplán, Anton Pelinka (for #7 of the agenda), Renata Uitz (for #5 of the agenda) and Stefan Cibian (for #12 of the agenda)

Minutes: Andrea Csele

1. Approval of the agenda

Liviu Matei proposed to deal first with points 7 and 5 of the agenda since Professor Pelinka and Professor Uitz are invited for these items on the agenda. With this amendment the agenda was approved as submitted.

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Approval of validators

Eva Fodor and Zdenek Kudrna volunteered as validators.

7. Proposal to change the name of *School of History and Interdisciplinary Historical Studies* to *School of History and Interdisciplinary Studies*

The proposal to change the name of the School had been discussed in the Academic Forum where several members expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of the term “Interdisciplinary” in the name of the School, which may imply that the other units are not interdisciplinary. Other members argued that this is not a real problem and if other units wish so, they can also add the term “Interdisciplinary” in their name.

At the request of Maria Kovacs, the Director of Nationalism Studies Program that somebody from the Nationalism Program be invited to the meeting of the Senate when this matter is discussed, Professor Anton Pelinka was asked to represent the Nationalism department’s views on this. He said that the School is focusing not only on history but other disciplines such as sociology, or political science classes are also included in the curriculum, so the name *Interdisciplinary Historical Studies* is misleading. The proposed name would be *School of History and Interdisciplinary Programs* or *School of History and Interdisciplinary Studies*.

Eva Fodor and Judit Bodnar objected to this proposal since the new name proposed – *Interdisciplinary Studies*- would be misleading in the sense that this School would not be

the only interdisciplinary one, as the name might suggest. Eva Fodor suggested *The School of Nationalism and Interdisciplinary Historical studies* instead.

The Senate members could not reach consensus about the name, and the Rector proposed that the discussion be continued, eventually the School itself could come back with a new name proposal.

5. Interim report from the Nominating and Vote-counting Committee

Renata Uitz, Chair of the Nominating and Vote-counting Committee presented a report regarding the Senate elections, which will run between December 11 and 15. During the voting period, a ballot box and a warden checking voter identities will be placed at a Cashier's Office at the University from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for five working days. She reported about the number of candidates: senior faculty (11), junior faculty (4), administrative staff (5), Business School faculty (1). She mentioned also the objections of some CEU administrative employees expressed in emails toward the Senate elections committee. Andras Ratony's emails were focused on the situation that the Business School administrative staff is not eligible to vote or be elected. Csilla Dobos, on behalf of the Trade Union, raised four points: 1) questioned the wide range of eligibility for nominations, 2) how ex-officio members of the Academic Forum can nominate themselves, 3) person nominating himself/herself should be nominated in fact by somebody else, 4) in addition to the eligible administrative group, since no administrative representative is a Union member, the Senate should include a separate Union member as of right, referring here to the Hungarian Higher Education Law.

Regarding the points raised by Csilla Dobos, it was clarified that they are mainly based on misunderstanding: e.g. members of the Forum are all ex-officio anyway, the nomination procedure is the same as in the past elections, the Union includes both faculty and administrative staff members.

Regarding the matter of the Business School administrative employees, it was clarified that their employment contracts are with an entity different than the university or its maintainers. In addition, the Senate does not have control over the work of these employees. In the case of the faculty, it was decided that they should constitute as separate constituency as indeed the Senate has academic control over the School and they should be represented in this body.

4. Report about the Fall 2006 meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Rector reported that the Board of Trustees held its meeting on November 5 with the participation of the newly elected members: Wanda Rapaczynski, Chaviva Hosek and Akos Detrekoi. At this meeting Ms Wanda Rapaczynski was elected chair of the Audit Committee, replacing Pierre Mirabaud, and she also became member of the Finance Committee. Patricia Graham, was reelected as a Board member for another four years, while Istvan Rev resigned from the Board one year before the termination of his final term.

The Rector reported also about the work of the different Board committees.

He mentioned that the Board discussed the idea of investigating into the needs and opportunity of an undergraduate component of CEU and noted that this development

would require a huge investment, which cannot come from the existing Endowment Fund. The question is whether the university is able to raise additional endowment moneys for establishing an undergraduate program. The Rector proposed a feasibility study to be carried out in order to see what the chances for establishing an undergraduate program are.

Discussing academic issues, the Board agreed that student recruitment is something for the university to consider in priority.

The Business School is a “permanent issue” for the Board. Adam Tertak presented an interim report highlighting the difficulties and the achievements. For the next meeting in April 2007 a detailed report will be submitted to the Board and a serious discussion is planned about the future of the School.

The Board also expressed their desire to have more meetings with the faculty and the students as well.

6. Regulations regarding non-research track academic staff

Following the discussion of new title for non-research track appointments the Senate decided with 8 votes for and 2 against for the creation of this new type of appointment. It was also decided with and 8 for and 2 against that **no new title will be introduced but the same titles will remain (Assistant or Associate Professor)** only the contract types will be changed to indicate that the appointment is for a non-research track and with no automatic promotion option possible (as per the regulations already approved by the Senate). The Faculty Compendium will be revised accordingly and the Human Resources office will be notified as well.

8. Appointment of an Ad-Hoc Senate Committee on Student Enrollment

In the Academic Forum held on 29 November, at the request of the Academic Secretary, Student Services submitted a comprehensive report on student enrollment and related issues at CEU for the last five years in order to see how we are doing, what are the problems, and to formulate an up to date recruitment strategy supported by adequate institutional policies (e.g. is the recruitment proceeding along the lines of our mission, do we have an equitable and efficient student financial aid program) and mechanisms (e.g. the work on a three-year budget projection cannot be done properly without clear recruitment objectives). This report was discussed by the Academic forum. As a result, the Rector proposed that the enrollment problems and any other related issues be dealt separately by a Senate-appointed Committee. Therefore, he asked that an ad-hoc Senate Committee be created to work on this under the name *Senate Committee on Student Enrollment Trends* whose members would be: Howard Robinson (chair), Uwe Puetter, Dorothee Bohle, Peter Grajzl, Istvan Teplan, Susan Zimmermann, Balazs Trencsenyi, Prem Kumar Rajaram and two designated students by the Student Council. *The Senate members endorsed the proposal about the creation of the Senate Committee on Student Enrollment Trends.*

The Pro-Rector drew the attention to the fact that the mandate of all the existing Standing Senate Committees should continue until the new Senate is elected and thus the new

Standing Committees are created. The situation with the Ad-hoc Committees is different since their mandate is for a given period of time. *The Senate members agreed that a resolution be created about these proposals.*

9. Change in the CEU admissions policy regarding language requirements

The proposal to change the CEU Admissions Policy with regards to the *Exceptions to the Requirements for Evidence of English Language Proficiency* was discussed in the Forum and it was also explained that the applicants typically coming from India, Bangladesh or various African countries where English is in fact an official language, have poor English, especially regarding written skills. The proposal submitted by John Harbord and Rositsa Bateson is to delete this clause from the current admissions requirements and to require submitting evidence of proficiency in English, effective for the admissions process in 2007/2008. *The Senate endorsed the proposal.*

10. Regulations regarding a prolonged absence of a student

In addition to the existing regulations regarding the absence of a student, it was proposed that unjustified absence from classes of more than a month may result, upon the recommendation of the department head to the Academic Pro-rector, to the termination of a student's enrollment. There was no objection to this regulation at the Forum. At Judit Bodnar's question regarding the situation of the Ph.D. students who are on field work and therefore might be absent for more than a month, the Pro-Rector explained that in such cases it is the supervisor who is responsible for these Ph.D. students.

The Senate members unanimously endorsed the proposal.

11. Unlimited terms "Egyetemi Tanar" appointments

The Pro-Rector proposed that the four professors originally appointed to "egyetemi tanar" positions for a limited term only be appointed for unlimited term. The four professors are: Tibor Varady, Janos Kis, Howard Robinson, Klaniczay Gabor.

The Senate members unanimously endorsed the proposal.

12. Approval of Student union By-Laws and Operational and Organizational Regulations

The Student Union By-Laws was adopted by the Student Council in a different form than the version previously approved by the Executive Committee. After reviewing the two versions, the *Senate decided* on the following modifications to the document already approved by the Executive Committee:

Page 1, Article I, one point added,: The SU has its own stamp.

Page 1, Article II, point 7, e): "Three to five elected Members"

Page 2, Article III, point 1: "...and department's program (Bachelor, Master, or Doctoral) elects two representatives."

Page 2, Article III, point 3: "Both the official and the deputy representatives have the right to run for election in the SU Board, SU Committees, or other positions. The SU Assembly members can delegate their vote to other Assembly members for specific

meetings of the Assembly. The delegation of the voting right must be written and filed with the SU Secretary”.

Page 2, Article III, point 4: “The elections of the SU Assembly (student representatives) shall take place no later than six (6) weeks after the academic year begins.

Page 3, Article IV, point 1, b: “The SU Assembly is formed of the student representatives (official and deputies). Both official members and deputies must take part in the SU Assembly meetings and both have the right to vote”.

Page 3, Article IV, point 1, one additional point added: “The quorum for SU Assembly meetings shall be comprised of 1/3 of SU Assembly membership”.

Page 3, Article IV, point 1, j.: “The SU Assembly shall delegate the number of CEU Senate members as stipulated in OOR of CEU....”

Page 3, Article IV, point 1, one point added: “The SU Assembly adopts the SU Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a three-year plan”.

Page 4, Article IV, point 2, two additional points added: 1) “Each member of the SU Assembly must be part of at least one of the Permanent SU Committees”, and 2) “Standing committee chairs and vice-chairs shall be given ex-officio status at board meetings”.

Page 4, Article IV, point 3 (SU Board), one additional point added: “The SU Board is responsible for the general management of SU affairs”

Page 6, Article IV, point 7, one point added after d): “The SU Treasurer may delegate executive positions within the SU structure but retains responsibility”.

Page 6, Article IV, point 8, one point added after b): “The SU Member of the Board may delegate executive positions within the SU structure but retains responsibility”

Page 6, Article IV, point 9, a) changed to: “The Supervisory Committee is formed of three members of the SU Assembly persons”

Page 7, Article IV, point 10, one point added: “The SU Representatives are informed of the meetings of their respective Committees by an email sent to student_council@ceu.hu”

Page 7, Article V, one point added: “The SU Board members may be remunerated for their work”.

Page 7, Article V, point 2: “The Student Union’s Budget shall be complemented with **20** percent of the Student Activity Fees”

Page 7, Article VI, point 2: “The Rector and President of the CEU shall meet the SU Board at least once every semester. The agenda has to be prepared one week in advance”.

Page 7, Article VI, point 3: “Meetings between CEU COO, Student Services and the SU Board...”

Page 7, Article VI, point 4 –it was agreed that a separate resolution with different wording be made to the By-laws regarding the students’ request that “Each unit shall assign one contact person for the SU. The respective part of a job description of contact persons shall be agreed upon in coordination with the SU”.

Page 7, Article VI, one point added after point 4: “From the budget of the SU, the SU can elect an administrative personnel/help and pay for it, the University will employ that person. In the selection process the approval of the SU Board is required. These employees are directly responsible for their work to the SU Board and SU President”.

Page 7, Article VII, point 3: “The official and deputy representatives of the School/Department are members of the School/Departmental Council (in accordance with the CEU Oor, Section XIV 4))”.

With these changes/modifications to the already accepted By-Laws by the Executive Committee, the SU By-Laws was unanimously endorsed.

Confirmation of previous decisions taken by electronic means

13. Policy regarding the appointment as “adjunktus” at Central European University (Közep-Európai Egyetem)

The Pro-Rector explained that CEU needs to make appointments as “adjunktus”, which are in **compliance with the new Hungarian Higher Education Law**.

The Rector said that concerning the Hungarian titles, the Senate Committees is going to make recommendations about who is entitled to be appointed to “Egyetemi Docens” and “Egyetemi Tanár” titles but in the case of the appointments to “Egyetemi Docens”, he will be the one who makes the final decision. He considers that those already appointed to “Associate Professors” and “University Professors” are worth receiving the “Egyetemi Docens” title. *The policy regarding the appointment as “adjunktus” was unanimously endorsed by the Senate members.*

14. Policy regarding conditions for submission of applications for the Hungarian “Egyetemi Docens” title

The Pro-Rector said that two decisions are needed: one regarding the policy and then in the next Senate meeting about individual appointments. As this involves a lot of work from the committee and since 3 programs are in the very final stage of the Hungarian accreditation MA programs, he proposed that the faculty of the following departments be appointed first: Gender Studies, History and Economics departments. Then, next year, in January, the eligible faculty of the other departments can be appointed to the “Egyetemi Docens” title. At Eva Fodor’s suggestion, the wording will be changed regarding the English translation in the policy; under the *Conditions* of the policy, point 5, instead of “Good record in supervising”, the wording “Proven ability in supervising” has been unanimously accepted by the Senate members. Judit Bodnar also noted that under the same point, “tanarsegedek” is not the equivalent of the English translation “junior faculty”. The Pro-Rector proposed that it should be changed to “fiatal oktatók”.

With these amendments, the policy was unanimously endorsed by the Senate members.

15. Policy regarding conditions for the use of “Egyetemi Tanár” titles at CEU (Közep-európai Egyetem).

The policy was unanimously endorsed as submitted.

16. Appointment of a Senate “Egyetemi Docens” Applications Evaluation Committee

In order to review the eligibility of faculty to “Egyetemi Docens” title, a Senate “Egyetemi Docens” Evaluation Committee was appointed. The Pro-Rector proposed the following to serve in this Committee (all members must have the Hungarian title of

Egyetemi tanár): Varady Tibor, Klaniczay Gabor, Howard Robinson and Ferenc Huoranszki.

The proposal and membership of the committee was unanimously accepted.

17. Other business

The Senate discussed the current situation at Babes-Bolyai university were, according to media reports, two Hungarian academic were fired for having placed Hungarian inscriptions next to Romanian ones. It was decided to check the reports and if confirmed to wrote a letter to the Senate of Babes-Bolyai University. It was also mentioned that CEU has a record of promoting solidarity with academics facing politically motivated abuses and that it appears this is a case that would justify taking a strong public stand.