

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
October 29, 2008
Excerpts**

Present: J. Cummins, B. Ferguson, K. Jacobson, C. Lindgren, R. Osgood, M. Schneider, P. Smith, B. Trish

The meeting came to order at 3:30 p.m. in Macy House conference room.

President's Remarks

The President remarked on the continuing financial situation and the impact on budget decision-making. Since the endowment earnings contribute 57% to the base budget and the endowment is down approximately 30% we will need to tighten up. We will try to maintain our priorities of create a salary pool, financial aid commitments, and EKI appointments.

The President noted he will not be at the next meeting and not at the December 17th meeting. If Council wishes to have a meeting during exam week, perhaps an earlier day in the week could work.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean noted that the Academic Subcommittee of the Budget Steering Committee has begun discussions on prioritizing 25.9 position requests from 17 departments.

She noted that she has sent out a call for promotion to professor. She has already received five direct contacts from associate professors interested in considering their readiness for promotion and four inquiries from department chairs. She commented on this as a good start.

The Dean noted that members of Council who have been tasked with working on the voting eligibility and part-time positions policies and language changes are nearing completion. She suggested that these actions should be going to the full faculty soon and asked which to go first. K. Jacobson replied that she had talked with Sam Rebelsky (who has worked diligently on voting rights policy) recently and they both think that the part-time positions policy could come first. B. Ferguson noted that he had recently talked with Eliza Willis (previous Chair of the Faculty) and she would urge Council to take up voting first.

Finally, the Dean noted that the opportunity exists for programming on Martin Luther King Day and encouraged those with ideas to come forward.

Council Remarks

M. Schneider noted that the College may have the opportunity to secure external funding to support the Humanities and Social Studies facilities planning process. J. Cummins noted that he has talked with Jim Swartz and Henry Walker about making a presentation to the two divisions and they have agreed to do so. M. Schneider stated his interest in attending that meeting as well. Annie Newman will be in Grinnell in two weeks time and will be available to attend the meeting.

J. Cummins observed that last year Council expressed its desire to minimize reliance on term positions and that because there are so many opportunities for leaves this is not working out. The Dean acknowledged this situation and responded that the combination of leaves and course reductions is driving the demand for term positions.

Continued Discussion of Salary Review Cycle

Council continued its discussion of the three-year salary review and the promotion review cycles.

Discussion of Diversity Appointment Proposal

Council discussed a proposal for an opportunistic diversity appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese