

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
November 12, 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. The minutes of 11/5/08 were approved.

Sam Rebelsky entered the meeting at 3:35 p.m. at the invitation of Council to discuss the plan to present voting eligibility proposal to the faculty. The Dean reminded Council that last spring the faculty had agreed, in principle, to establish a definition of faculty voting rights in the Faculty Handbook. The Council agreed to work on proposed language changes over the summer and return to the faculty with a proposal in the fall. The Dean suggested that Sam make the presentation of the proposal at the next faculty meeting scheduled for November 17. Rebelsky reminded Council that last spring the Faculty Organization Committee could not consider/approve the proposed changes until the term "regular" had been defined. At this point in this process Rebelsky observed that Council had neglected to return to the FOC for consideration of approval and that this step is advisable before Council can return to the faculty for their consideration. It was agreed that this requirement might delay the presentation to the faculty and that it may have to be moved to the December 1 meeting. The Dean stated her intention to try to present the proposal to the FOC as soon as possible.

President's Remarks

The President made no remarks.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean made another call for academic programming for Martin Luther King Day.

Council Remarks

M. Schneider noted that he had heard from Chris Hunter regarding efforts to improve accommodations for Muslim students during Ramadan.

J. Cummins asked about progress to bring the issue of part-time contracts to the faculty. The President responded that he has begun reviewing a rough draft of the new proposed policy.

Cummins reported that the Humanities and Social Studies Divisions had recently held a joint meeting at which various concerns regarding teaching spaces was discussed with consultants from SBRA.

Preparation to Discuss 2007-08 Academic Department Reviews

The issue is what Council's role is in the departmental review process and at what point in the process should they be involved and to what extent. The external reviews for the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science which were completed last February were distributed previously. Departmental responses to the reviews are forthcoming. M. Schneider and K. Jacobson agreed to look at the Self Studies of both Departments to determine what sections would form the closest thing to an Executive Summary which could be brought to Council with the external review document as preparation for their discussions in future. If an executive summary would be required in the future as part of the

packet sent to Council, both Schneider and Jacobson agree that it should contain an historical examination of the curriculum, plans for the future development of the curriculum, and a list of key issues. The President thought that it is very important that the response to the external review include a full discussion of plans for the future of the curriculum to create a stronger link. K. Jacobson reiterated her interest in explicitly including a requirement that the department include a forward looking section on the curriculum and that this be part of any revision to the guidelines given to departments in the future.

Promotion to Professor

The Dean reminded Council that the purpose of this discussion is not to conduct a personnel review, but to provide a “thumbs up or thumbs down” indication of whether or not each of the candidates should be allowed to come up for consideration of promotion by the Personnel Committee. K. Jacobson and B. Ferguson noted that last time Council was involved with this process there were two key items for consideration...were there any red flags detected and time in rank since tenure. Ferguson reminded Council that in cases where time in rank was closer to the six year minimum Council applied a higher scholarship standard. The President responded that if this is actually what we are doing the Handbook needs to be amended to reflect this practice. The Dean introduced the notion that “productivity” and “sustained over time” are key to promotion to full professor considerations. There was discussion. The conversation then turned to years in rank. M. Schneider argued that for someone to be promoted at the earliest possible moment will require the highest possible standards because this will have the appearance of institutional imprimatur and send a strong message to more junior faculty that “this is what I need to look like to be successful”. C. Lindgren suggested that, for Council to carry out this task, members need information on teaching. It was agreed that the Dean would provide a summary of end-of-course evaluation information to Council along with the curriculum vitae and faculty activity report.

Message Matrix for Use in Public Communication about the College

The Dean reminded Council that they had been asked for comment on a draft document provided by Mickey Munley. The President provided an overview of its purpose as an informational tool to be used in the process of marketing the College. There was discussion. Council applauded Munley for his efforts to generate a document of this sort.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese