

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council**  
**February 25, 2009**  
**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.

Kathleen Skerrett joined the meeting at the invitation of Council to present information on a proposal for a new Gender and Women's Studies major. Following her presentation there was discussion of the pros and cons of doing away with the Concentration in favor of a major focusing on 1) fairly high and consistent student demand, 2) historical underinvestment in faculty resources to staff the concentration, 3) the possibility of interested students who wish to receive some credentials in GWS losing access to the fields of study due to their unwillingness to double major, 4) over-reliance on the Sociology Department and other issues of proposed staffing of the major. Skerrett left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

The minutes of 2/18/09 were approved.

**President's Remarks**

The President noted that Grinnell is hosting the men's Midwest Basketball Tournament finals this weekend.

He remarked that the budget situation for next year is fairly solid at this point, but there is continuing concern over market deterioration in advance of the April meeting of the Board of Trustees at which they are to vote to approve the budget. He observed that there is serious concern for the following year budget.

The President noted that he continues to meet with the faculty group representing concerns of faculty-administrative governance.

**Dean's Remarks**

The Dean updated Council on the status of faculty searches.

She distributed a position announcement for a visiting scholar in residence for a one-semester appointment next year. The appointment would carry no teaching responsibilities. This is an attempt by the Center for Humanities to find the proper balance between the early staffing model which relied on numerous visiting specialists at a time for a short period and the recent model of having one visiting specialist for an entire year.

## **Council Remarks**

M. Schneider noted that the Council had also met with the concerned faculty group yesterday and had a productive meeting.

C. Lindgren expressed concern for a Residence Life Coordinator.

## **Consortium for Faculty Diversity-Liberal Arts Colleges Proposals**

Council members ranked the four departmental proposals for making an offer of a CFD appointment.

## **Revising Long-Term Contract Renewal Cycles**

M. Schneider had previously distributed a memorandum dated 2/25/09 which he drafted titled Proposal for Faculty Handbook Revision of Recontracting Schedule for Library and PE Faculty. He noted that the only relevant changes would be to change “five” to “six” years in two places in the Handbook and in three places in each of the Letters of Agreement Amendments dated 1996. He noted that in future when a recontracting review occurs the new term will be reset to six years. All current contracts will play out as is. The period of complete recycling will require four or five years. The Dean noted that the Personnel Committee has agreed to recommend provisional merit scores for these PE and Library faculty reviews pending faculty and Board approval. The President noted that this proposed language change needs to be approved by the College lawyer ahead of presenting it to the Board at the April meeting. M. Schneider will present this at the next faculty meeting and, subsequent to their discussion, will seek formal Council approval of the motion to take to the faculty and Board.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Secretary  
Karen Wiese