

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
March 4, 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.

The minutes of 2/25/09 were approved.

President's Remarks

The President noted that we are into mid-semester exams now and spring break will begin on March 13th.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean noted that the Campus Planning Committee met after a recent visit by Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott and had a productive meeting.

She noted that the Library and Sociology Departments' external reviewers will be on campus in April. She also noted that she expects the Mathematics and Statistics Department will soon begin drafting their response to the external review which took place last year.

Finally, she noted that the subcommittee of Council working on regularization of part-time positions is making progress.

Council Remarks

J. Cummins noted that he had reacted by objection to a recently circulated position description because of a failure to follow mandated template policy. He asked why no other members of Council had responded to his objection. Council members reassured him that their silence denoted complete agreement with his position.

Cummins noted that, if the Gender and Women's Studies major proposal needs to go to all three divisions, then the full faculty, then the President for approval, then there will be no possibility of allowing students to declare that major until the year after. There was discussion.

B. Ferguson noted that discussions with the planning consultants raised three issues which might be addressed together in the short term as discussions of pedagogy proceed: whether changes need to be made to the course schedule, a need to select a couple of classrooms that can be used for design experiments, and visits by a small group to other colleges for discussion of pedagogy, discussion and observation of classroom space, and discussion of scheduling issues.

His remarks sparked a discussion of the possibility of changing the college schedule.

M. Schneider updated Council on this year's honorary degree candidates and the Commencement speaker for 2010.

J. Cummins asked the President about developments in his discussions with the group of concerned faculty so that he could report to his division next week. The President responded that he hopes to have a letter in the *Scarlet and Black* this week.

Update on MAPs

Leslie Gregg-Jolly joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m. In light of recommendations from last year's Council and Curriculum Committee, she reported on actions related to the MAP program including:

- no changes in compensation;
- encourage vetting by departments (as part of efforts to promote high quality);
- enforce MAP limits on students and faculty; and
- provide alternatives to eliminate required MAPs.

Source Executive Council minutes 3/12/08, Dean Swartz Annual report of Curriculum Committee 7/12/08, and Chair of the Faculty-Willis report 8/15/08.

The only policy changes needed are 1) setting maximum number of MAPs/student and 2) eliminating required MAPs for independent majors and possibly the Linguistics concentration.

Recommendations regarding implementation of best practices as we end the "experimental phase" include:

- making the objective of off-campus dissemination more prominent;
- facilitating the generation of high quality proposals/projects;
- providing opportunities in a wide diversity of fields; and
- highlighting the value of MAPs as the intersection of faculty development, generation of new knowledge, and student learning.

In February, she, David Cook-Martin, Kathy Kamp, and Eric Simpson participated in a Mellon sponsored workshop on student/faculty research collaborations with social studies and humanities faculty. They decided to use Mellon funding to provide support for summer 2009 scholarly communities, including weekly student meetings and guidance for students to be able to break down scholarly work into common activities. Summer MAP apprenticeship-like activities that enhance the experience for both faculty and students should be highlighted.

She has been working with the Registrar's Office to change the MAPs forms which will be available on-line soon. She noted that she will be meeting with the Curriculum Committee and on March 12th with the 2009 MAP directors to discuss these revisions. She concluded her remarks by saying that she plans to hold a follow-up, late afternoon colloquium on MAPS in the fall.

Council Support for Upcoming Campus-Wide Diversity Survey

M. Schneider noted that the campus-wide diversity survey is live now and for the rest of the semester. It is long and will probably take 30 minutes to complete. It must be done in one session or will not save. Paper copies of the survey can be obtained from Elena Bernal. Since confidentiality is a high priority, no information from any survey will remain on campus. All categories of employee will take part in the survey.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese