

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
April 29, 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 4/22/09 were approved.

President's Remarks

The President noted that the Trustees had met last week and had approved the budget for next year. There was a formal presentation by the Chair of the Investment Committee which will be meeting in California to discuss investment strategy and holdings. They may present their thinking at the full Board retreat in Missouri June 11th-13th.

He commended the Chair of the Faculty and Council members for their efforts to address faculty concerns and their attendance at many meetings last week.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean noted that current economic and fiscal uncertainties will require a parallel track budgeting approach for the next several years that will allow flexibility in decision-making as conditions change one way or the other. She reported that the Trustees also approved the changes to the Faculty Handbook in regard to increasing the period between merit and contract review for physical education and library faculty.

She noted that as pre-registration ends we have not seen as much pressure on the entering class being able to sign-up for introductory classes.

She updated Council on the status of faculty searches.

Finally, she noted that the agenda for the May 4th faculty meeting is very full and requires many significant decisions. She asked Council members to urge their divisional faculty to attend.

Council Remarks

J. Cummins asked what is the message being given to the Faculty Budget Committee regarding salary increases for next year. The President responded that he needs to talk with the Dean and the Chair of the Faculty before being able to fully respond. J. Cummins asked what is the message being given to the Faculty Budget Committee regarding salary increases for next year. The President responded that he needs to talk with the Dean and the Chair of the Faculty before being able to fully respond. He also noted that a recent interaction with the Registrar reveals that her office apparently believes that it is now college policy not to publish "or permission of instructor" after the prerequisites for a course.

B. Ferguson noted that he went to the Friday evening presentation of the Prison Program to the Trustees. At the end of the presentation, Trustee Paul McCulley '79 announced a personal pledge in the amount of \$100,000 to support the program. Ferguson reiterated a point that he had made at the last Council meeting that he thinks that the gift to this program illustrates how somewhat more programmatically directed

fundraising might be successful in these times of economic hardship and might thus presents opportunities for accelerating alumni giving requests.

M. Schneider informed Council the intentions of the newly formed governance group to announce the establishment of a smaller working group to examine issues associated with an Ombuds office. The President agreed with the formation of a smaller group because there is much to be learned. In his role as Ombudsman, Schneider noted that he has been meeting with members of the Student Affairs staff.

Finally, Schneider mentioned his intention to schedule one final informal faculty discussion group on May 11th. This may not be possible as there are division meetings both at noon and 4:15 that day.

Prison Program

In response to requests made by Council members for additional information at the prior Council meeting, the Dean distributed a list of questions which would be asked during a program evaluation proposed for years two and five of the pilot program which would inform program continuation. She noted that she believes there needs to be a reflection on the question of what does this program bring to the College as well as what does the College bring to the prisons. Additional ideas included how does this program feedback into our curriculum, what is the experience getting volunteers, and how to assess student learning. B. Ferguson moved, M. Schneider seconded, that the Executive Council provide support to the Prison Program proposal. The motion was approved.

Position Description for Religious Studies and History Middle East Specialist Search

There was discussion of the revised position description for a renewed search for a religious studies and history Middle East specialist.

Position Proposals

There was discussion of replacement and expansion position proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese