

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
May 6, 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 4/29/09 were approved.

President's Remarks

The President thanked Kathy Jacobson, Joe Cummins, and Bill Ferguson for their two years of distinguished service on the Executive Council. He noted that continuing Council members will be welcoming Vicki Bentley-Condit, Steve Andrews, and Anatoly Vishevsky as new members next fall.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean made no remarks.

Council Remarks

M. Schneider noted that he is holding an open faculty meeting tomorrow at 11:00 in the South Lounge to talk about the process of conducting a presidential search and asked Council if they thought there was a need to meet together ahead of that meeting. It was decided that there was no need to do so.

Middle East History & Religious Studies Position Description

There was further discussion of the revised position description for a search in Middle East History and Religious Studies to be carried out in the fall.

Position Proposals

There was further discussion of faculty position proposals.

Religious Holiday Policy

The President noted that the Religious Life Council has developed this new policy which is based closely on the Macalester policy. While they would have liked to have faculty approval this year we do not have any opportunity to conduct that business yet this year. But it is possible for the Council to give them supportive endorsement and note their intention to take this to the faculty next fall for approval. The Dean noted that she was happy with the educational aspects of the document but thinks that the policy aspects of the draft need more work which can be undertaken over the summer.

Academic Department Review Guidelines

The Dean noted that she needs Council input to the various issues regarding guidelines for departmental review which she will need to give to those departments to undergo review next year. Discussion centered around increasing the role of the Division Chair as liaison to the reviewers, the department, the College community, and the Council in order to lessen the overall burden on Council. The Dean also

pointed out that the current timeframe between review and response is too long and should be contained to the same academic year to ensure that those Council members who have been involved in the process will continue to be available to respond to the department's response to their review. The Dean also noted that the departmental response to their review and subsequent comment by Council seems to drop into the void that occurs in the ten years between reviews. She believes that at several points during that period there should be some interaction with the department to see what progress is being made on what they proposed in their review response. M. Schneider pointed out that clarification of this process speaks to the interests of the NCA in terms of a regular process for departmental review and is therefore a good thing. The Dean will alert Council of upcoming reviews at the beginning of each new academic year. All were in agreement on these details.

Math Department Response to Their External Review

There was discussion of the response of the Mathematics and Statistics Department to their external review.

The final meeting of the year adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese