

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council**  
**August 26, 2008**  
**Excerpts**

Present: J. Cummins, K. Jacobson, C. Lindgren, R. Osgood, M. Schneider, P. Smith, B. Trish

The meeting came to order at 4:00 p.m. in Macy House conference room.

**President's Remarks**

The President welcomed continuing and new members of Council to the new year and thanked all for serving.

He noted that the Board of Trustees will be meeting in Grinnell on October 3-5. Their meeting coincides with the dedication of the Noyce Science Center.

He also noted that the Trustees had recently approved the renovation and expansion of Nollen House to make the building accessible which will begin soon and be completed within a nine month period. The Deans are moving to 1102 Broad Street for the year. He will be staying in his current office for as long as possible.

The President reminded Council of Trustee discussions over the past year which encompassed various foci of interest to them in terms of strengthening the institution. They are considering how to stimulate thinking to strengthen the international aspects of the College. Another theme they pursued was enhancing the reputation of the College on the national level. Since that time, the President is working on a white paper titled "Marketing a Great College" and has engaged a New York based marketing consulting firm, CooperKatz, to help with the promotional campaign.

**Dean's Remarks**

The Dean also welcomed members of Council to the new year.

She noted that there was some Council business that took place over the summer that needs to be entered into the record.

The Dean reviewed faculty transitions, including resignations, that have occurred over the summer.

Finally, the Dean established the Council meeting time (Wednesdays at 3:30) and place (Macy House conference room) for the fall semester.

**Council Remarks**

None.

## **First Implementation of Special Process for Contract Renewal and Promotion Reviews for Faculty Members Teaching a Substantial Number of Non-departmental Courses**

The Dean noted that this process has already been established by approval of the faculty and is articulated in the Faculty Handbook. At this time, the process needs to be implemented for the review of the first two EKI interdisciplinary appointments. J. Cummins established that when they were appointed Aspler and Carter were given no particular expectations for review by faculty from outside their departments of appointment. M. Schneider stated that when an interdisciplinary appointment does not overlap with their home department it is not that important that there is no shared disciplinary understanding between the person under review and the department representative(s) on the review committee. What is ultimately important is that the chair of the review committee be a senior faculty member who can shepherd the process with authority. J. Cummins noted that theoretically the appointment of the committee chair might meet with some difficulty, but this situation will hopefully be avoided since it is the responsibility of the Dean to make that appointment. The specific approach to the two reviews was discussed with Council in agreement with the plan laid out by the Dean.

## **Revised Education and Mathematics Position Announcements**

The Dean noted that Council has received revised position announcements from the Education and Mathematics Departments for positions which were approved last spring. There was discussion.

The case of the position descriptions for the mathematics (2) and statistics (1) positions is quite different. Last spring Council approved three position descriptions. The Department has returned to Council at this time with descriptions that have been altered from those approved last spring. There was discussion.

## **Tenure-Track Proposals**

The Dean noted that Council is considering three position proposals out of the normal spring cycle because there have been unexpected resignations in neuroscience, psychology, and music.

## **Elections**

K. Jacobson volunteered to remain on the Budget Steering Committee for a second year. B. Trish agreed to serve as Council representative on the Diversity Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary  
Karen Wiese