

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
September 10, 2008
Excerpts

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

The meeting came to order at 3:30 p.m. in Macy House conference room.

President's Remarks

The President noted that the North Central Association reaccreditation team will be in Grinnell on September 15th for several days.

The President announced the dedication of the Robert N. Noyce '49 Science Center on October 3-4. He invites all to this celebration and hopes that everyone will be an active participant in the weekend activities. These activities will coincide with the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees in Grinnell.

The President noted that he has completed writing a marketing plan. The document, "Marketing a Great College: Grinnell" was brought to the attention of faculty and staff this week by email distribution and he has asked for feedback from everyone.

Finally, he announced that the Board of Trustees will consider beginning the process of updating the Campus Master Plan and Marci Sortor can be available to review this with Council.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean noted that the next faculty meeting will include reports on registration and the 2nd Year Retreat, the election of members to the Personnel Appeals Board and approval of the degree candidates eligible for graduating mid-year. She will be mentioning an agreement with childcare providers in town to extend the hours of provision of childcare so that faculty can attend faculty meetings.

Council Remarks

B. Ferguson reported to Council on the recent OIS Advisory Board meeting. There was discussion of course clusters and he thought the subject might end up on Council's agenda this year. C. Lindgren noted that this discussion carries forward from last year and would feature a flexible connection among courses. P. Smith added that this would enable advisors to talk with their advisees to assure coherence outside the major.

Consideration of Honorary Degree for Commencement

This matter was postponed to a future meeting.

Revised Introduction for International Taskforce Recommendations

The Dean had earlier distributed a revision of the International Taskforce Recommendations dated September 8, 2008. She worked closely with David Harrison and Leslie Gregg-Jolly on the document revision. The document will go forward for faculty consideration next week. Harrison is preparing a bulletized list of key facts which describe current international programs at Grinnell to serve as an appendix to the document as it goes to the Trustees. The next steps would then include building money into the next budget.

Agenda Items

There was discussion to prioritize items for completion from last year's Council consideration and discussion of several new items including developing a flexible approach to accommodating spouses/partners of faculty and staff and consideration of MAP information by the end of fall semester. It was suggested that Division Chairs would consult their faculty to get a picture of the types of situations and resources encountered by spouses/partners and the Dean would take the matter to the President's Staff to do the same thing among the various Vice Presidents on the staff side.

Presentation by Rankin & Associates on Campus Climate Audit

Susan Rankin presented an overview of work undertaken to date by her and several of her staff in the process of preparing a campus climate survey instrument. The entire process will take two years to complete because in order to reach the intended objective it needs to be campus-wide and community driven. Confidentiality is key so there will be no Grinnell College URL associated with the survey and no unique identifying information. Outcomes from previous work on college and university campuses has surfaced issues such as institutional classism and hierarchy, impact of peculiar legislative activity, spirituality, disability, etc. The survey will be administered to the entire Grinnell College community in early February. It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Her team will produce a report by next fall that will go back to the Diversity Committee. After that, her team will help administrators at Grinnell implement the key recommendations of the assessment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese