

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
September 3, 2008
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.

President's Remarks

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

He noted that the Dean has moved offices to 1102 Broad Street for the remainder of the academic year. The Associate Deans and the Grants Office will also be located there beginning next week. Renovation and expansion of Nollen House will begin the following week.

The President thanked everyone for a smooth start to the new school year and extended special thanks to Houston Dougherty, Travis Greene, and Cheryl Chase.

Finally, he noted that Tom Friedman, New York Times columnist has agreed to speak at the next commencement. Mark Schneider took this opportunity to remind Council members that the Honorary Degree Committee is composed of Barb Trish, Kathy Jacobson, and him. He also took the opportunity to note that Rachel Bly takes much of the responsibility in this regard.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean reiterated that her offices are in the process of moving, but assured all that the highest priority action items such as reviews were being moved forward regardless and requested patience from everyone on other more routine communication with her and the Associate Deans.

She also thanked Council for their valuable input on the process which she had suggested for EKI position reviews.

Council Remarks

M. Schneider noted that with the appointment of Mark Montgomery to the Wilson Program Council looks forward to being informed and involved in any new program development with broad institutional or curricular impact as they emerge. He noted further that the Directorship is in transition from Doug Caulkins to Mark which will take another year to complete.

Tenure-Track Position Description—Music Theory

Council considered a revised position description from the Music Department.

Role of Executive Council in Faculty Searches

The Dean noted that there are two separate issues for Council consideration. The first is the process of planning for Council interview teams. Previously, the Administrative Assistant to the Dean parceled out interview assignments by Division Chair and Council member-at-large. The choice of which Council

member-at-large can be made following either a homogeneous (member in same division as Chair) or heterogeneous (member in different division as Chair) model. She asked Council which model they wish to follow. There was agreement on the heterogeneous model. This choice was informed by a proposal introduced by M. Schneider regarding possible modification of the role of Council in faculty searches. Schneider argued that several members of Council have categorized Council interviews of faculty candidates, and the reports to departments, as a lot of work with minimal value to departments which raises the question...why do this at all. He is strongly in favor of the continuation of Council interviews with candidates for tenure-track positions, but not for reasons of assessment of academic qualifications of a candidate which should and must be left to the recommending department. Rather, he believes that the purpose of these interviews should be for Council members to seize the opportunity to talk with the candidate about the priorities of the faculty and the institution and what will be expected of them as teachers at Grinnell College. In order to provide the full Council information about these tenure-track candidates, it was agreed that vita would be provided to the group along with the departmental recommendation. The scheduled length of the interview was also discussed and Council decided on a maximum of 45 minutes. Schneider recognized that, while there was a good discussion of his proposal, additional time should be provided to Council members to consider the range of issues and that Council should return to the matter later.

Update of the Work of the Internationalization Task Force

The Dean noted that a task force formed over a year ago to study the question of further internationalization of the College has produced a draft document with their recommendations which was distributed to Council for consideration. There was extensive discussion.

Proposed Agenda Items for Fall Semester

The Dean noted that there are several items which have carried over from the past Council business, in addition to new items, to be discussed by this new Council and asked members to prioritize for consideration this semester. They include:

- a. Faculty Voting Eligibility (carry over from last year)
- b. Long-Term Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Positions (carry over from last year)
- c. Reconsideration of Three-Year Merit Review Process
- d. MAPs and Independent Study
- e. Alternative Approaches to Spousal/Partner Employment Issues

In addition to these items, B. Trish asked that the subject of diversifying Grinnell be reviewed. B. Ferguson asked that Council further consider the issue of relational conflict of interest.

The meeting concluded at 5:20 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese