

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
September 30, 2009
Excerpts

Present: S. Andrews, V. Bentley-Condit, C. Lindgren, R. Osgood, M. Schneider, P. Smith, B. Trish, A. Vishevsky

The meeting came to order at 4:15 p.m. in the Nollen House conference room.

The minutes of September 23 had been approved via email.

The majority of the Faculty Organization Committee joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m. to discuss a Part-Time Regular Faculty proposal and related changes to the Faculty Handbook. The Council had received comments, distributed before the meeting, from FOC on the proposed changes. The FOC Chair, Jin Feng, made suggestions for proposed language for the Faculty Handbook and summarized the Committee's anticipated faculty concerns. The Committee believes that the faculty will want to know the reasons behind the proposed changes and raised concerns about clarifying the role(s) these part-time regular faculty would play in at the College. The President reviewed the history of the development of this proposal, while noting that we do not have many lecturers. Having said that, he noted that we have some fine people who regularly teach less than full loads that have never been reviewed. The Dean pointed out that the review process has a strong element of faculty development. Regularization of their positions could entail re-examining their compensation and their responsibilities and privileges would be spelled out in their contracts. Initiation of requests for regularization would be incumbent on the department in which they teach. The Dean noted that former Council members Kathy Jacobson and Joe Cummins took the lead on developing the proposal and drafting Faculty Handbook language. M. Schneider noted that this would be in tandem with the development of a policy document which would lay out responsibilities in the areas of service and scholarship to be specified in their contracts. The Dean added that with expectations of scholarly production newly articulated, additional resources would be provided by the College to support that work. There was discussion about the definitions of part-time and "regular", voting rights, the number and nature of reviews, regular vs. temporary lecturers, renewable vs. multi-year contracts, and the need for involvement of the Vice-President for Diversity in what would be anticipated not to be a national search.

If this change is adopted by the faculty and the Board, the President will give instruction to Jim Mulholland, Assistant Treasurer, to write a policy. M. Schneider suggested that, if significant changes are suggested by Council after further consideration, Council will return to FOC. A question was asked about timing of moving this forward. The President and Dean responded that the goal is to be able to take it to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting in February in order that any approved changes be incorporated into the new Faculty Handbook over the summer. the FOC expressed the desire that Council provide guidance to the various departments that would likely need to address this issue relatively quickly if these changes to the handbook are passed by the faculty. The Council thanked the FOC members for their consideration of this matter. The FOC left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

President's Remarks

The President noted that tomorrow a celebration of the Rosenfield Program will be held on campus. He considers this Program to be an exemplar of the finest that can be achieved at a liberal arts college. The celebration is largely to honor Wayne Moyer for his many years of service.

He reported that there was a joint meeting of the Investment and Budget Committees during the meetings held at Grinnell last week. He can report that the endowment is growing.

Finally, he mentioned that he is busy writing letters of support for candidates for many programs such as the Rhodes Scholars, Watson Fellowships, Marshall and Mitchell Scholarships. He thanked Doug Cutchins for his work on behalf of these students.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean reported that the Board also unanimously approved the Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies major.

She also noted that the Molecules that Matter Gallery exhibit received front page attention by the Des Moines Register.

She reminded the Council that this weekend is Alumni Volunteer and Family Weekend.

Finally, she prompted Council members who intend to attend a dinner with the Staff Handbook review team to RSVP.

Council Remarks

C. Lindgren asked what role Council is supposed to play with regard to the Linguistics Concentration. There was discussion of how the Concentration plans to develop an EKI proposal for a new position. Lindgren noted that the Psychology Department has deferred any commitment to provide a departmental home for a new linguist.

M. Schneider noted that Bill Ferguson's presentation to the Board on the formation of the Policy Studies Committee was well received. Schneider reported on campus climate.

External Review and Response to the Mathematics and Statistics Department

The President noted that the odds of approving an expansion request at the current time are very low. He left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

The Dean reminded Council that their intention last spring was to produce a one-page response to the Department in order to acknowledge and respond to their response to the external review. The Council discussed the points to be made in this response.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese