

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Council
October 7, 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 30 had been approved via email.

The Council took up an unscheduled issue regarding merit pay review.

President's Remarks

The President complimented the Volleyball team for an exciting victory on Tuesday night.

He announced the resignations of Charles Powell, Director of Development, and Kathleen Powell, Director of Career Development effective at the end of the month. They have accepted new positions in Ohio. The College intends to fill these two vacant positions through national searches.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean complimented the Orchestra for a fine concert last weekend.

She noted that, while the faculty would have received a report from Seth Allen, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid by this time of year, he has been travelling quite a bit this fall and is scheduled to give his report at the faculty meeting on December 7th.

This Friday there will be a dinner and discussion of Grinnell's current planning for teaching and learning spaces and how they relate to our strategic goals. A group of faculty will present information about planned activities over the next two semesters to develop one or two spaces for curricular experimentation and advancement in the humanities, social studies and Burling Library.

The Dean acknowledged that this part of this semester has been especially burdensome for department chairs because of an earlier call for budget requests, later deadlines for staffing requests, and an unusual number of faculty reviews. She stated her intention to try to organize a better sequence of the deadlines for next year.

Council response to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics on their external review

Dean circulated a draft letter of response for Council consideration. Council members thought the letter was appropriately encouraging while simultaneously acknowledging our current financial situation.

Proposed Faculty Handbook Change: Part-time regular faculty

M. Schneider distributed proposed changes in Faculty Handbook language regarding the regularization of part-time faculty positions. The President noted that, after the proposed changes are once again reviewed by the Faculty Organization Committee, the College legal counsel will need to review it as well.

Council's role in tenure-track searches

The Dean distributed a spreadsheet with a proposed tenure-track interview schedule and Council member assignments. She noted that there are only five open tenure-track searches this year as compared to 17 last year. M. Schneider reviewed the rationale for Council's contribution to the campus interview process and a process for post-interview reporting to departments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Secretary
Karen Wiese