

GRINNELL COLLEGE
Meeting of the Faculty
September 15, 2008

President Osgood called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. in ARH 302.

Approval of Minutes – Russell K. Osgood, President of the College

Minutes from the meeting on September 15, 2008, were approved as submitted.

Election of Candidates for Personnel Appeals Board – Jon Andelson, Faculty Organization Committee

Andelson reminded faculty members about the 40th Anniversary Celebration at CERA on Saturday, September 20, and asked faculty members to encourage students to attend the Ahn Trio Performance on Thursday, September 18.

During the course of the meeting, faculty members voted for Personnel Appeals Board candidates. A ballot to elect three positions on the Board will be distributed to campus mail boxes.

Mid-Year Graduation – Paula Smith, Dean of the College

The faculty voted for provisional approval of degree candidates eligible to graduate in December.

Report on Registration Process and Second-Year Retreat – Kathleen Skerrett, Associate Dean of the College

Skerrett introduced Cheryl Chase, Registrar, who reported on the success of the new course registration process for entering students. Observations of the new process and statistics on its outcome are available on the Institutional Research website. Chase recognized the collaborative efforts of the Curriculum Committee, the Deans' office, academic support staff, Institutional Research, and the Office of the Registrar in developing and implementing the process.

One hundred thirteen students attended the Second-Year Retreat at Boone; evaluations were very strong. Skerrett encouraged tutorial instructors to attend next year and also encouraged suggestions for a new location as the Boone site is not accessible.

Remarks – Russell K. Osgood

President Osgood announced the following:

- The reaccreditation team on behalf of the Higher Learning Commission is currently on campus.
- The Board of Trustees will meet October 3-5. The Noyce Science Center dedication will also be that weekend.
- In light of the financial market situation, it is possible that fluctuations in the endowment will affect the budgeting process.

Osgood commented that a personnel matter with an employee of the College is subject to the College's confidentiality policies and emphasized that the administration is committed to generous and fair treatment of its employees.

Remarks – Paula Smith

Members of the reaccreditation review team will meet with faculty on Tuesday, September 16 at 3:15 p.m. in ARH 302.

The President's Task Force on Internationalization has produced recommendations for enhancing global education at the College. This document will be distributed to faculty on Tuesday.

The Grinnell Community Day Care at the Ahrens Center and the afterschool program at Davis Elementary have agreed to extend child care hours this semester to 6:30 p.m. when faculty meetings are scheduled. There is a fee for this service.

Smith apologized for not providing information regarding religious holidays at an earlier date. There is no written policy to accommodate students' religious obligations, but faculty are encouraged to consider student requests for excused absences on these occasions. Students have been advised to notify faculty of these conflicts early in the semester. A list of religious holidays is available on the Chaplain's Office website.

Mark Schneider raised the issue that Dining Services could be more accommodating of student's dietary needs surrounding religious holidays. Katya Gibel Mevorach proposed that Conference Operations not schedule any major events on Yom Kippur.

Jim Swartz's letter regarding science education is the lead letter to the editor in the September 19 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Remarks – Mark Schneider, Chair of the Faculty

Schneider encouraged faculty to attend the open forum with the reaccreditation review team and to participate in future Second-Year Retreats. He also encouraged faculty to contribute to the development of the new marketing plan.

Announcements and New Business

An early national election voting opportunity will be available in Forum South Lounge on Wednesday, October 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Winburn

Secretary to the Faculty