

TO: Dean Swartz
FROM: Faculty Organization Committee
RE: Annual Committee Report for 2006-2007
DATE: July 6, 2007

The Faculty Organization Committee for 2005-2006 consisted of Sarah Purcell (chair), Cecilia Knight, Anatoly Vishevsky, Steve Andrews, and Tom Moore. The committee met regularly to transact the normal course of business (faculty elections, faculty committee assignments, replacements on committees, etc.) as well as to address issues of concern brought to us by members of the campus community. A summary of the most important non-routine issues we dealt with this year follows:

1. Faculty Elections

FOC continued to find the new election schedule easier to negotiate. The committee tried to announce voting eligibility rules frequently and to standardize practices of absentee voting.

2. Faculty Voting Eligibility

FOC consulted with a special Voting Task Force created by the Executive Council. The group was at work on changing voting eligibility and standardizing voting practices across varieties of faculty elections. Chair Purcell served as procedural consultant to the Voting Task Force, and both Tom Moore and Anatoly Vishevsky served as members at various times in the year.

The Voting Task Force will present recommendations to the faculty in the Fall of 2007.

FOC will need to follow up on the issue of voting and office eligibility for SFS faculty, since the Voting Task Force chose not to deal with this issue.

3. Committee Matters

FOC undertook a review of voting eligibility in committees and recommended several changes, in particular reinstating voting rights to ex officio members of the Off-Campus Study Board.

FOC approved changes in the composition of the Off-Campus Study Committee (which now encompasses the Grinnell-in-London and Grinnell-in-Washington committees).

The Art Acquisitions Committee has decided to continue its existence.

The Committee which governs the Center for International Studies has absorbed the Nanjing Committee (neither committee is appointed by FOC).

FOC continued use of a (newly improved) internet form for soliciting faculty committee preferences. With proper technical support, this form makes the process much easier.

4. Faculty Governance

FOC consulted with several groups concerned with matters of Faculty Governance, especially related to Personnel Matters. Untenured faculty members raised concerns about the guidelines for personnel reviews and their difference from stated Handbook guidelines.

FOC also consulted with the Early Career Faculty group about a set of motions they plan to introduce in 2007-2008 about “transparency” in personnel reviews. The group wishes to have departmental recommendation letters shown to all faculty under review. Executive Council is still considering the matter, and it will be continued in the Fall.

We encourage FOC to continue working to educate the Faculty about Parliamentary Procedure and Faculty governance issues.

I thank all the members of FOC for their service in 2006-2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah J. Purcell, chair