

MINUTES OF FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FEC 6) MEETING

Thursday, November 30, 2006 8-9:30 a.m. Government conference room

Present: Lisa Aronson, Timothy Burns (scribe), Dan Curley (Chair, grievously late), Jennifer Delton, Dan Hurwitz, Paty Rubio

1. Minutes from Thursday, November 16, approved without amendment.
2. Update on Faculty Handbook. The committee decided to present Parts One through Five of the Handbook for adoption by the Faculty at the December 1st Faculty Meeting. Part Six still contains errors, of mysterious provenance, and so will have to be approved at some other time.
3. Update on Elections. Dan Curley reported that the roster of candidates stands as it did two weeks ago. All committee slots have a sufficient number of candidates to hold an election, except IPPC, which still has but one candidate. Dan will inform the faculty of this problem. It is possible that we can run an election now for all slots other than IPPC, and put the IPPC election off until one of the spring wts rounds.
4. Meeting with I-VPAA Susan Kress (8:30)

Susan wishes to consult with us about two different matters: a new standing committee on space allocation, and an ad hoc study group/task force to study Special Programs.

The recognition of the need for a committee on space allocation emerged from conversations on the Campus Plan. There is a long-standing dearth of classroom and office space, and certain buildings/classrooms/meeting rooms/offices appear sacrosanct to various parties. A more objective group, it is thought, might be in a better position to administer and allocate the College's available space than are directly affected parties. It was pointed out that David Burrows chaired such a committee in the past, but that it was an ad hoc committee. The new standing committee would have the responsibility and authority to act as an arbiter in space conflicts, to allocate all annual changes of funds for new furniture, etc. The committee would be chaired by Associate Dean of the Faculty (Mark Hoffman), and would have on it faculty representatives, students, the Registrar, Campus Planner (Fred DiMauro), the Director of Financial Planning (Mike Hall), and a delegate of the Dean of Student Affairs.

FEC recommended that the VPAA write a description of the new committee and submit a proposed change to Part Three of the Faculty Handbook. FEC also recommended that the VPAA consult with FEC on faculty appointments to the committee, and make them through the appointment round (round 4) of willingness to serve forms. FEC also requested that the new committee consult closely with and advise the IPPC Student Affairs Subcommittee, which is at present studying space allocation in Case Center and elsewhere.

The Task Force to study Special Programs will be formed for the following reasons, (which were given only after the lowering of the Cone of Silence and which members of

FEC are therefore asked to keep confidential). With the departure of Paula Newberg, an opportune moment exists to examine aspects of Special Programs that need to be examined before a new DSP comes on board. For example, if we move UWW and MALS into Academic Affairs, what role does CEPP and Curriculum Committee have in the course offerings of these programs? Special Programs has a variety of offerings each year, only some of which are academic; might the academic programs within Special Programs (MALS, UWW, Summer academic courses) be profitably moved into a separate grouping from the other programs (Summer Six, the Jazz Institute, the Writers Institute, etc.)? Special Programs runs a number of different types of programs: conferences, institutes, courses. Which of these does it make the most sense for us to continue? What connects best to our mission? What should be let go? Do we need a Director of MALS and of UWW? Might we have a Director of External Degree Programs? Handing questions like these over to a new Dean is putting a new Dean in a difficult position; the questions should be answered first. Susan has asked Interim Dean of Special Programs Jeff Segrave to serve for one and a half years, so that these and other questions can be examined carefully and answered before the new Dean is hired. She has also asked UWW to postpone its search for a new director until the work of the Task Force can be completed. The Task Force would be staffed by people with a sympathetic interest in Special Programs but not a proprietary investment in its present form. Susan would like the Task Force to have its work finished by mid-May.

FEC recognized the need for the Task Force, and expressed gratitude to Susan for her thoughtful, careful approach to the many questions she had raised. Concerns were raised about the time frame for the Task Force. Given the many questions it would have to address, and given the need that it would likely see for examination of the practices and structures of other colleges, it seemed that the Task Force would need more time to complete its work well. It was suggested that the report be due at the beginning of