

Faculty Executive Committee

Meeting minutes for 3/21/12 8:30 AM

Present: Barbara Black (chair), April Bernard (scribe), Jörg Bibow, Paul Sattler, Natalie Taylor

I. Approval of minutes

Meeting minutes from 2/29 and 3/7 approved.

II. Announcements and Updates

*The chair noted the timing of Faculty Handbook changes with respect to the combining of the DOF and VPAA positions; the FEC hopes to receive the changes by Monday 3/26.

*The chair noted that the shared governance meeting, originally scheduled for 3/20, did not take place.

* The CAS revision of membership language has been submitted to FEC so that FEC may bring it forward as a Faculty Handbook change. There was some discussion about whether or not CAS has a policy function, and also about what FEC's role should be in bringing this new language forward. (Should key members of CAS speak for the proposed changes?) We discussed what we might expect by way of discussion at a faculty meeting.

* Barbara Black, chair, attended the IPPC and received an update from the Board meeting: the Board is excited about the new chair, Linda Toohey; the Board discussed the cost of the liberal arts education in general and at Skidmore in particular. Other IPPC business focused on the reconception of the Sustainability Committee (CEC). A need to discuss the political activity policy draft was also noted.

* FEC's continued discussion of the BOT materials for review:

* A. Bernard surveyed the Student Affairs materials and raised the question of what does it take (in terms of infractions of drinking, drugs, and sexual harassment policy) to get a student suspended or expelled from the college? It seems that the policy is designed to keep students on campus despite repeated bad behavior. How is this policy set?

*This dovetails with earlier questions, about CAS's role with setting policy, about how difficult it seems to be to get a student sent home for failing academically.

* FEC members agreed that a general, college-wide discussion of academic rigor is long overdue.

III. Update on special wts for DOF/VPAA search committee

* N. Taylor is running the wts, which closes on Monday; no one yet from the Humanities has indicated willingness to serve.

IV. On the Political Activity Policy

* How does FEC recommend that we get faculty input on the new policy? After some discussion FEC agreed that the Committee of the Whole in a faculty meeting is the best way.

* Further matters on the agenda were postponed to next meeting.

Adjournment was at 9:45 AM

Respectfully submitted, April Bernard 3/27/12; revised for approval, 4/2/12