

Minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee Meeting
FEC-9
February 2nd, 2009
PMH 304
11:30 am

Present: Lisa Aronson, Sue Bender, John Brueggemann, Jennifer Delton, Pat Hilleren (scribe), Mark Huibregtse, Dan Hurwitz, Phyllis Roth and Natalie Taylor.

I. Minutes

Minutes from 01/26/09 meeting were approved and will be posted in the FEC archives.

II. UWW

CEPP and IPPC plan to bring a motion to the faculty floor (02.06.09) requesting that faculty vote to recommend termination of the UWW program. As Chair of FEC, John B. will stand and offer brief remarks about the logic and process leading to this motion.

Dan H. (as member of the UWW working group) clarified his concerns that the process that led to the content of the Executive Summary on UWW be made transparent. There is a plan for a faculty/community forum on UWW (date and time TBD by CEPP) where these concerns can be made public.

III. Space Planning Working Group

Dean Poston requested (12/16/08) that FEC approve the appointment of JoAnne and Kyle Nichols as the two faculty representatives of the newly-created Space Planning Working Group. IPPC has endorsed this committee. Given the urgency to get this committee organized, JoAnne and Kyle were formally asked by Dean Poston to be members of the SPWG committee before the full FEC had the opportunity to weigh in. After studying the SPWG proposal, FEC has concerns about the depth of faculty representation/weight of faculty input. In addition, although the organization of the committee is underway, there must be a formal review and approval of the proposed SPWG by FEC in order for this to exist as a long-standing, All-College committee. Sue B. referenced the 10/10/08 IPPC meeting (Item 5) that provided language for the formation of this year's working group as a temporary (one-year) task force while the proposal for the formation of the long-term SPWG is reviewed. In addition to concerns about faculty workload and voice in the proposed SPWG, FEC recognizes that the formation of this committee exacerbates the problem with faculty governance as it relates to committee slot propagation.

IV. Service/Governance Problem

The 'problem' is defined largely by the low response by faculty to FEC's call for willingness to serve on some of the major faculty governance committees. The number

of committee spots, faculty dis-satisfaction with the quality/value of committee work, and an increased expectation in scholarly production likely all contribute to this problem. Currently, the ratio between the number of faculty able to serve and the number of committee spots requiring faculty stands at about 1:1.

The question remains: How can FEC try to improve faculty participation in governance while maintaining conditions that are favorable to teaching and scholarship?.

Sue B. urged FEC to stay on track and try to find ways to increase the efficiency of faculty service. For example, in terms of FEC itself, to be clear on what decisions are FEC's to make, and when/where would FEC's input be fruitful and effective in an advisory capacity. If situations arise that do not fall within these two realms, it may be more efficient to deal with the situations on an ad-hoc, short-term basis (thru IPPC?). One route to efficiency would be to identify and try to eliminate parallel, overlapping committee functions (i.e. Is there functional redundancy between IPPC and FEC?). Should FEC consider it's primary role to oversee the membership and coordination of the predominant faculty governance committees (CAPT, CC, CAFR, CEPP, FEC and TRB) and yield oversight of the remaining faculty-involved committees to IPPC?

V. Round III Willingness to Serve

Jennifer D. sent out a draft of the Round III willingness to serve. As per a suggestion by Mark H., the description of the CAFR position will be expanded. The call will go out on February 9th at the latest and will remain open until Friday, the 13th. Voting will begin the following Monday (16th). Regular updates will be sent out to faculty. In general, FEC will not extend deadlines except to insure the minimal number of candidates to fill essential committee slots (i.e. TRB).