Minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee
FEC-6
Monday, December 8, 2008
11:30 p.m.
Tisch 208

Present: Lisa Aronson, John Brueggemann (Chair, scribe), Jennifer Delton, Pat Hilleren, Dan Hurwitz, Natalie Taylor

I. Minutes from 11/17/08, 11/24/08, were approved with minor changes and will be emailed to Pat Hilleren for posting at FEC's archives. Minutes from 12/1/08 are in progress.

II. Board of Trustees observation reports have all been submitted to Mark Huibregtse for compiling, with the exception of the report from the Budget and Finance Committee, which Sue Bender intends to complete this week.

III. Committee of Committees debriefing

> A. No committees report any concerns regarding their interactions with other committees or the administration.
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> B. We discussed the structural problem of too many committee spots per available faculty members.
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> C. We also discussed the "parallel governance" of IPPC, its five subcommittees and one sub-sub-committee.
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> > i. The influence of faculty in the IPPC cluster is in question in light of the enormous number of spots on all these committees (roughly 75 in all for students, staff and faculty) and the fact that institutional money and energy tends to be directed towards strategic action, which is focused around IPPC as opposed to other faculty committees. This constitutes a serious complication for FEC's evolving plans for emphasizing the Big Six main governance committees.
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> > ii. The Subcommittees are often chaired by administrators year after year (which is a departure from comparable committees before the governance reconfiguration being led by rotating faculty members).
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> > iii. The basic relationship between IPPC and FEC is up in the air, an issue that must be clarified before the end of this year.
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> > iv. All of this said, Mark Huibregtse reports successful governance at IPPC.

v. The FEC Chair will draft a summary of the CoC meeting, run it by FEC, and then email it to the faculty.

IV. The UWW Report

A. We agreed to try to read the report before the end of winter break.

B. Susan Kress has requested that we not share the report with others at this time.

C. We had a wide-ranging, inconclusive discussion about whose decision it is whether UWW remains in operation, and whether a faculty vote is necessary. We agreed to keep pondering this so that FEC will be in a good position to weigh in on process if and when the questions are posed.

V. The Service/Governance Problem (SGP)

A. We agreed to keep our research moving between now and the end of winter break.

i. We will review the statements Lisa compiled from Chairs and Program Directors.

ii. Natalie will continue to work the question of how many faculty serve on how many committees.

iii. Pat will continue to work on the question of what committees have grown the most recently.

B. The Chair proposed we start thinking about how to reduce the overall number of committee spots designated for faculty (226 in Jennifer's inventory) by 30 percent. This would get us to roughly 1.5 faculty members per committee spot (as opposed to the roughly 1 to 1 ratio we now face) – a plan enthusiastically endorsed by all present!

VI. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 26 at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

John Brueggemann