

Minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee
FEC-6
April 6, 2011

Present: Barbara Black (scribe), Ben Givan, Pat Hilleren, Dan Hurwitz, Reg Lilly (chair), and Natalie Taylor

1. Minutes for March 30 meeting are pending approval.
2. FEC reviewed the outcomes of its meeting with CEPP, which took place on the same day from 8:30-9:45, to discuss the “Transition and Transformation” initiative and to plan for the April 15 Faculty Open Forum that will focus on the “T & T.” FEC has been charged with developing a process to standardize how administrators assemble working groups. The first step in the process—and not the last—is Friday’s Open Forum on the “T & T.” We suppose that a second step will be a WTS to serve on the newly constituted “T & T” working group following the Open Forum. FEC feels that whenever an initiative involves faculty load, FEC should be consulted for proper faculty representation in the discussion of that initiative.

FEC revisited its early morning discussion with CEPP concerning the structure of the Open Forum. FEC has concluded that it will be a faculty forum, which FEC will moderate. We will invite two CEPP members, two IPPC members, and Rochelle Calhoun and Corey Freeman-Gallant to speak when questions arise about the origins and intent of the “T & T.” We believe that the Open Forum should focus more on the substance of the document than on process. However, FEC will be there to answer questions about process should they arise from the faculty discussion.

3. There was time for brief discussion about setting the Committee of Committees meeting, which will probably take place during finals weeks. The day after Academic Festival was also suggested as a possibility.
4. Reg, Dan, and Natalie prepared briefly for their upcoming meeting with Muriel, to occur the following day—April 7 at 1:00. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the genesis of the “Transition and Transformation” initiative and, more broadly, what the “T & T” as a case study reveals about how initiatives begin at Skidmore, how working groups get formed, how information on initiatives is disseminated, how faculty are consulted. In short, the meeting with Muriel is a necessary prelude to Friday’s Faculty Open Forum on the “T & T” initiative. It is also a necessary step in understanding better the relation between faculty governance and administrative initiatives.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted, BB