

**Faculty Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2010**

Present: Barbara Black, Ben Givan, Pat Hilleren, Karen Kellogg, Reg Lilly (chair), Natalie Taylor

I. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of 10/20/10 will lie over for approval next week.

II. Update on Reduction in Faculty Committee Slots and Operating Code Revisions

FEC members are continuing to hear from committee chairs. Some committees have already made recommendations; in other cases discussions are ongoing.

III. Report from the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC)

The faculty vice-chair of IPPC has mentioned two issues in his recent discussions with the FEC chair:

(1) Optimization

IPPC is expecting to issue a recommendation later this year establishing an optimal size of the student body. This recommendation may come during the academic year while the Vice President of Academic Affairs is serving as the college's Acting President. The faculty vice-chair of IPPC has raised two issues: what data are being consulted to inform this recommendation, and what process is being used for formulating a final recommendation?

(2) Sexual Harassment Policy

IPPC discussions are still ongoing as to the faculty's responsibility to report sexual misconduct (which is distinct from the legal category of "sexual harassment").

(3) There are plans for IPPC to regularly distribute its meeting minutes among the FEC members.

IV. Division of Disciplines

At the next faculty meeting the FEC will introduce a motion to insert, within the preamble to the "Faculty Governance" section of the faculty handbook, a table assigning each academic program to one of four disciplinary divisions. This table codifies de facto current practice, providing the FEC with clarity when it oversees elections to faculty committees whose operating code requires representation from each disciplinary division. A rationale will be drafted and circulated among the FEC members by next week's committee meeting.

V. FEC Operating Code

In due course, two separate motions will be proposed to the faculty, amending passages in the handbook that specify FEC procedures (this handbook language functions as the FEC's operating code).

(1) Sabbatical Replacements

On p. 209 of the handbook, new proposed language will clarify the process of replacing faculty representatives who, for a period of one year or less, vacate their committee position because, for instance, they are on sabbatical. The default process will be to appoint a replacement from the runners up in the last election to the committee in question; if this is not feasible a replacement will be determined by running a special election; and if neither option is practicable, a replacement will be solicited and appointed by the FEC.

(2) FEC–IPPC relationship, and the Committee of Committees

On p. 210 of the handbook, new proposed language would specify that the FEC chair and IPPC faculty vice-chair should meet regularly to share information about each committee's activities. Some discussion ensued about whether it is necessary to state explicitly how frequently such meetings ought to occur. A proposal, currently under consideration, would eliminate the responsibilities of the three faculty IPPC representatives to concurrently serve as members of the FEC, along with the six faculty members directly elected to the FEC.

The FEC will propose a small change to the handbook language describing its required report to the faculty after it convenes the biannual Committee of Committees.

The committee resumed its ongoing discussions about its ideal size and constitution. Issues at hand are: Should the size of the committee be reduced, and by how much? Should its membership be comprised of at least one representative of each of the four disciplinary divisions? The committee considered some of the logistical and substantive ramifications of such changes.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Ben Givan