

**Faculty Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2012  
8:30am**

In attendance: Barbara Black (chair), Ben Givan (scribe), Paul Sattler, Natalie Taylor.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting were approved.

**II. Announcements**

The chair made several announcements:

- The FEC will soon need to elect a chair for the 2012–13 academic year.
- The discussions with IPPC about the temporary (Spring 2012) leadership of the Campus Environment Committee (CEC) have been resolved to the satisfaction of all: during the Spring 2012 semester, the CEC will be co-chaired by the college's Sustainability Coordinator (Riley Neugebauer) and an elected faculty representative (Kathryn Frederick of the library staff). The Sustainability Coordinator will sit on IPPC during this period.
- The FEC's observer notes from the Fall 2011 Board of Trustees meeting have been reviewed by the administration and returned, with some minor editorial changes, to the FEC chair. The notes will be posted on the FEC website and emailed to the college's faculty soon.
- The FEC chair recently forwarded to members of the committee a variety of documents pertaining to the college's forthcoming Political Activity Policy. This policy is still in development and IPPC has asked that details of the policy draft be kept confidential for the time being.
- The FEC chair is continuing to participate in a working group that is drafting a proposed set of procedures for the development and implementation of all-college policies. This group will soon be ready to share its draft with the committee and Faculty at large.
- The FEC chair provided an update on the Dean of the Faculty's proposal for a pilot project in which faculty representatives would participate in the annual allocation of tenure lines. While the Dean of faculty had originally hoped to finalize the pilot process by February 15, he now believes that March 1 would be a more realistic date.
- The college's president has informed the FEC chair that he wishes to convene the third of a series of meetings that he initiated last fall to allow chairs of the major committees

and certain administrators an opportunity to discuss the college's governance policies and practices.

- The FEC chair reminded the committee that an open forum was to be held at 4:00pm that afternoon to enable the faculty to pose questions and raise concerns regarding the proposal, recently approved by IPPC, to increase the standard student body size by fifty students. Due to scheduling conflicts, it appeared that no member of FEC would be able to attend the event.

## **II. Round III Committee Elections**

The "Willingness-to-Serve" (WTS) call for volunteers for committee elections will be issued next Monday, February 20.

The FEC chair reported that the Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC), a newly constituted subcommittee of IPPC, is receptive to the FEC's proposal that the subcommittee's two elected faculty representatives serve staggered terms. The initial election will be for one two-year term and one three-year term, with a standard term of three years thereafter.

The FEC chair is aware that both the Vice President for Academic Affairs and chair of the Committee on Educational Policy and Planning are expecting to require faculty representation on working groups or other such ad hoc bodies. She will check in with them both.

The FEC chair updated the committee on some emergent procedural complexities surrounding the inception of the newly reorganized Periclean Scholar Award Subcommittee (PSAS). She distributed a copy of the handbook language describing this subcommittee's membership. It was decided that, in order to constitute the new PSAS in time for this year's award cycle, the FEC will seek volunteers for three appointed faculty representatives as part of the Round III WTS. Going forward, the call for PSAS volunteers will be issued in Round IV, such that each year's PSAS will be populated well in advance.

## **III. IPPC Invitation to the FEC chair**

The IPPC's invitation to the FEC chair to serve on the IPPC as an invited guest during the Spring 2012 semester, in order to foster more efficient communication between FEC and IPPC, remains open. The current proposal is for the FEC chair to attend IPPC meetings as a "silent observer."

The committee discussed various pros and cons of this proposed arrangement. On the one hand, there was a strong sense that this could be an effective way to improve intercommittee communication. On the other, some concerns were raised as to whether the FEC chair's presence on the IPPC could compromise the FEC's function as a neutral procedural arbitrator, and whether, should such an arrangement be codified in the

handbook permanently, the participation of the FEC chair in IPPC could conceivably be regarded as de facto consultation with FEC on procedural matters, without necessarily ensuring that each committee would be given sufficient opportunities for independent deliberation. An alternative possibility would be for rank-and-file FEC members to serve as IPPC observers, rather than the FEC chair. The IPPC will not allow this because its standard practice is to only allow officially designated members (or invitees) to attend its meetings; substitutes or rotating representatives are prohibited.

#### **IV. Revision to Faculty Advisory Board Handbook Language**

The chair distributed a draft of some proposed revisions to the faculty handbook's description of the faculty advisory panel. These revisions are necessitated by the new Discipline and Dismissal Policy, which is in its final stages of development. The faculty and administrators who have been working on the Discipline and Dismissal Policy will be meeting on Friday, February 17.

#### **V. President's Response to the Committee of Committees Notes**

The chair distributed copies of an email she received on February 12 from the college's president, who offered some responses to two issues discussed at the December Committee of Committees meeting. The President believes that Barbara Krause's new role as a fully-fledged member of his Cabinet is purely to support him and has not "materially affected the operation of the IPPC in any way." He also offered some background information on the history of the Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU) and noted that CIGU "is reconsidering its structure and purpose."

**[Please note: I left the meeting at around 9:40am — was anything else important discussed after I left?]**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Givan