

Committee of Committees Meeting
December 5, 2007
Faculty-Staff Club
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The Faculty Executive Committee is charged with convening the Committee of Committees (CoC), which comprises faculty members of the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC), the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC), the Committee on Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure (CAPT), the Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR), the Committee on Educational Policy and Planning (CEPP), the Curriculum Committee (CC), the Faculty Development Committee (FDC), Athletic Council (AC), and any current ad hoc committees whose presence FEC believes would be helpful. The CoC convenes at least twice a year to assess the interactions among committees and between committees and the administration, and to discuss ongoing issues (problems or successes) in committee operations.

The first CoC meeting of AY 2007/8 took place on Wednesday, December 5, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Members from all of the above named committees were present, with the addition of a faculty representative on the Scribner Village Study Group (SVSG), who asked to be present at the beginning of the meeting to report.

What follow are notes on the meeting. A condensed version of a committee's report is given first, followed by a synopsis of reactions to and discussion of that report, where applicable. The order of reports is the order in which they were actually given. The purpose of these minutes is to make faculty and administration aware of concerns within the governance structure, and of observations on college operations by members of standing committees.

Furthermore, FEC will share these minutes with appropriate members of the Administration as a courtesy. The Administration has the option to respond in a separate document, which will be made available on the FEC website.

1. Scribner Village Study Group (SVSG).

Report. A faculty representative from the SVSG reported on that group's activities since April of 2007. The representative noted that little progress has been made since Fred DiMauro's departure, and that there have been no meetings of the SVSG since the summer, and few communications. The faculty rep. was especially concerned about sustainability issues (which are why the faculty member agreed to serve on the SG) and their apparent low priority in the Scribner Village project.

Discussion. The CoC affirmed that sustainability issues are legitimate faculty concerns. There was also concern expressed about use of faculty time when serving on task forces and other ad hoc groups. The Chair of FEC noted that FEC generally requests charges, sunset dates, and final reports as it learns about the formation of ad hoc groups.

2. CAPT.

Report. CAPT has had good relations with the Administration this term, and is carrying on with its work regarding tenure considerations.

3. CAFR.

CAFR reported no concerns.

4. AC.

Report. AC has been meeting once every two weeks and is functioning well. There have been two fact-finding field trips to the Boathouse and the Stables. Both facilities are in need of significant upgrades; the former is, in a word, “pitiful.” AC plans to write a document (like a white paper) about this situation and how it might be improved. The Council hopes to bring faculty and coaches together this year under the assumption that these two groups of people have much in common, yet don’t know each other well and could learn something from each other; a bridge-building event featuring Jeff Segrave (specifics to be determined, but something in the spirit of a pedagogy workshop) is scheduled for Friday, February 8. Finally, AC has revised its PA instructor procedures and is currently conducting a review of the five most recently hired PA instructors, all of whom are coaches.

5. CC.

Report. CC enjoys good relations with the Administration, with the Associate Dean of the Faculty (ADOF) sitting on the Committee. Mark Hofmann has been reviewing materials carefully and in a timely manner for administrative concerns (such as costs and staffing) before sending them on to us. In addition, the deep knowledge and understanding of the curriculum that the Dean of Studies (DOS) possesses clearly enhances and advances discussions and deliberations, without pre-empting any of the voices or concerns of other members of the committee. One qualification: CC sent out a preliminary report on a new minor last week and has yet to receive an acknowledgement of receipt from the Dean of the Faculty (DOF). CC is observing revisions to many departments’/programs’ curricula (Economics, Biology, American Studies, International Affairs), which are designed to strengthen course offerings, make them more challenging (especially in terms of course prerequisites), and to provide stronger foundations in the disciplines. The question of course enrollment caps continues to be a source of contention (to be dramatic) when departments submit new courses. It may be worthwhile at some point to revisit this policy and formally seek its

revised to provide flexibility to the kinds of projects that can be supported. The addition of Jill Jones as support staff has made a real difference in terms of facilitating FDC's work.

8. IPPC.

Report. Agenda items discussed to date at IPPC include: *Faculty Handbook* Part Six; retirees' health care benefits (with more work left to do); implementation of optimization; the SPSG Report; and several Campus Environment Committee (CEC) issues (including Focus the Nation, the North Woods Summer Stewards' Report, the Sustainability Coordinator position, and the CEC agenda for 2007/8). Yet to be discussed are the sunset and replacement for the Intercultural and Global Understanding Task Force (the President will bring a proposal forward); academic planning (analogous to strategic and facilities planning); facilities planning (the condition of the Boathouse seems to be on the radar), and the FY 2009 budget. The meetings have been cordial, though progress on some fronts (such as the budgets) has been slow; retirees' benefits are a huge undertaking.

9. FEC.

Report. FEC has met with Mike West and asked that the process for examining retirees' benefits be as transparent as possible; Mike has made it clear that he believes faculty input should come through the Budget and Finance subcommittee of IPPC, hence Mark Huibregtse's

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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