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Minutes, Arts and Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, Thursday, August 26, 2010

Arts and Sciences Executive Committee

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**Approved Minutes
Executive Committee
August 26, 2010**

Members Present: Rick Foglesong, William Boles, Barry Levis, Claire Strom, Sue Easton, Nick Horsmon, Lewis Duncan, Laurie Joyner, Deb Wellman, Joan Davison

- I. Call to order—the meeting was called to order at 12:37 PM.
- II. Approval of Minutes—the minutes of the April 22, 2010 and April 29, 2010 executive committee meetings were approved.
- III. Reports
 - A. FSC – Easton explains FSC includes many new members. She announces F&S will hold their agenda setting meeting on September 7, 2010. They will review unfinished business from the previous year and build an agenda for this year. This committee has oversight for two standing committees: 1) the Ethical Production Oversight and 2) the Committee on Environmental and Sustainability Issues. Easton notes one issue they will continue to follow is the implementation of the sweatshop apparel accord. Foglesong states the issue of faculty presence on the board probably requires monitoring and perhaps additional work. He then invites other EC members to suggest issues. Davison suggests the most critical issue for FSC attention is the contingency budget and long term plans. She elaborates FSC must consider the effects of a long term recession or structural economic change on the budget and concludes this concerns is fundamental to the mission of the institution. Duncan concurs and states early next week he hopes to address the College regarding the issue. Joyner agrees and states it is important to think about budget priorities and reallocation. Easton then notes that Mary Throumoulos resigned from FSC and needs to be replaced. Boles suggests nomination of a tenured faculty member given Easton currently is the only tenured member on FSC. Foglesong replies the recent practice is to hold a new election based upon who ran for slots in April. He states he will look at the ballot from last year.
 - B. AAC- Levis states serious issues exist related to the pre-matriculation courses offered to first year students. He enumerates as other issues for the AAC agenda:
 1. Online live registration, which Holbrook will discuss with the committee next week;
 2. The Asian Studies major following the tabling of last year’s motion. Levis announces I Alon will meet with faculty members who objected to the major during the faculty meeting and then hold a colloquium before returning the issue to the committee and faculty;
 3. Evaluation of Maymester which is essential given the completion of two years of the pilot; and

4. Diverse other issues including transfer credits, course attendance policies, and grade scales. Levis explains a wide variation of average grade exists across courses and departments. Duncan suggests the transcript include the average grade for each course and notes graduate schools appreciate this information. Joyner mentions AAC also should consider phase 2 of curricular renewal which is under Rachel Simmons' leadership. Levis responds AAC asked Simmons whether her committee needed an AAC rep and she did not believe she needed a representative from AAC. Joyner states the curricular renewal still operates as a subcommittee of AAC and asks for the issue to be on the AAC agenda. Joyner also states some Holt issues exist. Boles suggests considering the question of changing final exams to 3-hour examination periods. Duncan states AAC needs to reconsider the question of the number of transfer hours the valedictorian may count toward graduation. Horsmon inquires about listing the grades for transfer courses on the transcript when the grades are not computed into the GPA.

C. SLC- Boles identifies four points of attention for SLC.

1. SLC intends to address the question of what should be, if any, the policy toward student attendance in regard to religious holidays, athletic competitions and student presentations with faculty members. Boles emphasizes there is particular concern about absence policies for high holy days and athletic competitions. He mentions the committee intends to consult with AD Parker. Duncan expresses concern about policies toward athletic absences because this contributes to a shadow advising system which tells students not to take certain courses because of the faculty member's policies. Duncan encourages some movement toward a standard for absence policies receptive to the travel schedule for athletes and students presenting professional papers. Duncan elaborates Parker is very attentive to ensuring high academic standards for the athletes and notes the record success of women's tennis which had 7 players named Academic All-Americans. Levis notes some coaches seem to work hard with scheduling to minimize absences and cites the example of baseball in recent years. Duncan identifies the particular problem of championship play in which unanticipated absences occur. Foglesong questions how wide spread the problem is; he expresses a desire to maintain professional autonomy in policies. Joyner states one team created the problem in the last few years and now there are efforts focused to work with this team.

2. Working with LLC faculty and staff members to convert the LLC program into the same expectations of other Residence Organizations on campus – Boles identifies the question as LLC has prime housing so what now should be the expectations of the LLCs? Boles identifies interfaith, ecoRollins and foreign language as groups which received housing. Levis asks about opportunities for other groups and Boles notes housing was found for qualified groups. Boles further explains groups on probation will be evaluated in December while those in good standing are reviewed every 3 years. This system allows for more complete feedback to the

groups under review. Foglesong questions the three year rotation and asks whether the presumption is a group continues to keep its housing as long as it does nothing wrong? He suggests a different metric is to assess which groups contribute the most and to place every house on the block and open to change with housing awarded to the most meritorious. Foglesong further suggests this might end the cyclical fashion in which groups are on and off probation depending on the assessment cycle. Foglesong notes, however, that there is the problem of measuring the contributions of potential groups. Duncan encourages an equitable method of evaluating diverse groups, including LLCs and Greeks, with diverse missions.

3. Working with SGA on their presence on campus- SLC continues to advise on important issues.

4. Faculty members also will continue to be involved in judicial hearings for social infractions.

D. PSC – Strom explains PSC still seeks to fill its committee slots and elect a chair. She notes at this time she is the only tenured, returning member of the committee. Strom identifies three continuing issues from last year: assessment of teaching including how to include assessment by students, peers and outside experts; librarians as faculty members and how to evaluate them because they do not teach; and the documentation and process for tenure and promotion. Strom states the committee cannot begin its work until the slots vacated by Thom Moore and Erich Blossey are filled. Foglesong inquires whether the EC can accept the top two vote getters in the recent election to fill Moore's seat. Davison states that is permissible only if Blossey was at large rather than a divisional representative. Strom responds Blossey is a divisional rep and she will contact the head of the division to seek a replacement. Boles asks about documentation and expresses concern if the tenure and promotion personal statement can only be 3000 words long. Boles notes the statement is the candidates one opportunity to make a case for tenure. Joyner states this is an FEC recommendation due to the extensive number of cases and workload. Davison expresses concern about setting a limit on the personal statement. She notes various departments define criteria differently and elaborates that in Political Science a candidate must make a case with regard to each category and subcategory. Boles asks about increasing the membership of FEC. Foglesong responds members do have a course release, but that a change in membership requires a by-law change. Davison notes if too many members rotate on the committee it could lead to the perception or reality of uneven decision-making across cases.

E. Faculty priorities – Joyner suggests the faculty priorities are time, travel support, salary, and IT. Joyner elaborates time refers to the desire for a 3-2. She also notes these responses come from the FSAR which is not designed to answer the question of collective priorities, but rather focuses on individual needs. Wellman says with Simmons help she hopes to advance curriculum renewal and focus on the issue of faculty time.

IV. Old Business - none

V. New Business

- A. Membership of Merit Pay Appeals Subcommittee – Foglesong explains EC must appoint new members to the committee to replace Tom Lairson and Twila Papay. Joyner states there might not be any appeals this year. EC agrees, however, that it must appoint members given that terms are two years. Foglesong notes Thom Moore and Jenny Cavanaugh will continue on the committee. EC suggests Bob Moore or Bob Smither from the Social Science division and Margaret McLaren or Leslie Laws from Humanities. EC agrees the committee needs to be completed and all nominees are qualified.
- B. Dean of Student Affairs Articulation Committee – Foglesong introduces a letter he received from the Committee, which questions whether it should continue its work given the provost search, and asks for additional members if it is to continue. Duncan states the Committee’s work is an important component of decision-making related to the long-term budget and the committee should continue its work. Davison concurs and suggests the importance of a specific report given general claims that student services’ expansions drive higher education costs and tuition increases. She notes that there are apparent redundancies between various offices on campus. Boles questions whether the Committee focus is on the Dean of Student Affairs or the DoSA office. Foglesong elaborates and recalls a question whether the DoSA should be a vice president, dean or associate dean. Duncan concurs and state people often hired into vp positions rather than deans’ positions for student affairs, but that the vp position does not necessarily seem appropriate for Rollins. Duncan continues that an associate dean role reporting to DoF might be more appropriate except for the complication of Holt. Davison reads the original motion from September 24, 2009 which the A&S faculty passed overwhelmingly with few objections: “EC will appoint a committee to examine the structural relationship of the Dean of Students Affairs Office to the rest of the institution and report back to the faculty in 30 days with a recommended decision about what to do next, including the possibility of moving forward with a search.” EC agrees the motion requires the committee to look at the office as well as the dean and to report with a recommendation. Duncan states it is important to know how offices operate under the DoSA umbrella. Joyner says we should ask the philosophical question of what is our mission, and then ask what organizational structure will achieve our goals. Duncan agrees and suggests it is desirable to depersonalize the committee’s work. EC then discusses additional membership for the committee and suggest Foglesong contact Lisa Tillman, Alice Davidson and Mae Fitchett.

V. Adjournment—The meeting adjourns at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davison
Vice President/Secretary