

3-23-2006

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting, Thursday, March 23, 2006

Arts & Sciences Faculty

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http://scholarship.rollins.edu/as_fac/71

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Minutes of the Meeting
Arts and Sciences Faculty
March 23, 2006

Members Present: V. Aggarwal, B. Allen, M. Anderson, P. Bernal, A. Blumenthal, A. Boguslawski, B. Boles, R. Bommelje, D. Boniface, W. Brandon, S. Carnahan, A. Carpan, R. Carson, R. Casey, J. Cavanaugh, J. Chambliss, D. Charles, M. Cheng, D. Cohen, E. Cohen, G. Cook, T. Cook, D. Crozier, M. D'Amato, K. Dennis, R. Diaz-Zambrana, S. Easton, J. Eck, L. Eng-Wilmot, M. Fetscherin, E. Friedland, J. Gorman, Y. Greenberg, D. Griffin, D. Hargrove, F. Harper, P. Harris, A. Homrich, J. Houston, G. Howell, R. James, Y. Jones, S. Klemann, P. Lancaster, B. Levis, L. Lines, D. Mays, M. McLaren, G. Meyers, B. Moore, T. Moore, R. Newcomb, M. Newman, A. Nordstrom, J. Queen, R. Ray, D. Richard, D. Rogers, M. Sardy, J. Schmalstig, R. Simmons, J. Small, B. Smither, P. Stephenson, D. Stoub, K. Sutherland, M. Throumoulos, R. Vitray, G. Williams, J. Yellen, W. Zhang

Guests:

Lindsey Steding

Christen Westover

I. Call to Order: T. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the February 23, 2006, meeting were approved.

III. Announcements:

T. Cook announced that the Spring Faculty Party will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 24, 2006, at the University Club. Over 100 participants have registered.

T. Cook announced that the faculty and staff of the Olin Library will be hosting the Book-A-Year Reception on Friday, March 24, 2006 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. of the year President Emeritus Rita Bornstein will be the Guest Speaker.

T. Cook announced that an appeal will be forthcoming in the next few weeks on nominations for service on the major committees for 2006-2007. Elections will be held at the April 20, 2006 faculty meeting.

A. Nordstrom announced that Cophorne Macdonald will deliver a presentation entitled “Wisdom: The Highest Aim of Life and Higher Education” On Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Bush Auditorium on Wisdom. Faculty members who are interested in being a panel respondent should contact A. Nordstrom.

R. Casey introduced Jennifer Leon, the new coordinator in the Office of International Programs. Jennifer, who has a Masters degree in Asian Studies from Pace University, expressed appreciation to the faculty for her warm welcome to Rollins.

B. Levis announced that a colloquium will be held on the Honors Degree supervisory program on April 21, 3:30 pm in the Faculty Club. The purpose of the colloquium is to

discuss significant changes to be made in the program and all faculty members are encouraged to attend.

B. Levis also announced that Karen Armstrong has postponed her visit to Rollins until May 1, 2006

T. Cook introduced A&S students Lindsey Steding and Christen Westover who announced the upcoming event by the LEAD Team. The Leadership Exchange “Life It Comes At You Fast” will be held on Saturday, April 1st, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. For the first time, students and faculty are being invited to converse and learn about leadership.

T. Cook recognized D. Mays, chair of the F&S committee, who announced that the F&S Faculty Task Force’s recommendations are posted on the F&S website for review and feedback. Faculty members were encouraged to read the document and to contact their representative on the F&S Committee with comments.

T. Cook recognized Jim Eck who invited faculty members to participate in the faculty survey on student engagement. The survey is processed by Indiana University and J.Eck emphasized that demographic data are not reported in the results.

J. Eck also announced that the faculty forum with the national Peer Residential Life Review committee will be held on Monday, March 27 at 4:30 PM in the SunTrust Auditorium.

IV. New Business

Proposal for national search for Dean of the Faculty.

T. Cook recognized M. Anderson who, representing the Executive Committee, reviewed the results of the recently conducted faculty survey on options for the search for a Dean of the Faculty. The results revealed that 71% of the faculty either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposition that we should conduct a national search and appoint a one-year interim Dean to serve during that search. Additionally, 44% of the responders either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposition that we should do an internal search for a Dean to serve a term of two or three years.

In light of the opinions gathered from the 93 faculty members who responded to the survey, the Executive Committee proposed the following:

We propose that

We begin a national search for a new Dean of the Faculty commencing in the Fall 2006

An interim Dean be appointed to serve for a year while the search process is underway.

D. Richard asked if the interim dean would be permitted to be recommended for the national search. D. Griffin stated that this should not be the case and offered a friendly amendment:

The interim dean may not be a candidate for the search.

M. Anderson did not accept the motion as friendly.

A. Nordstrom inquired if this is a motion to exclude the person who is appointed as interim from being a candidate. M. Anderson pointed out this was the case and that it is difficult for one to serve as interim Dean and also be a candidate for the position. L. Duncan stated that he supported the amendment and that a very good external candidate will not apply when there is an internal candidate for two reasons: 1. the issue if it is a true search; and, 2. if the external candidate is selected, they will possibly have some cohort of faculty in opposition to their selection.

D. Griffin emphasized that this would place the person in the interim position in an extremely awkward position and that the arguments against it are very strong.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion and the amendment carried by voice vote.

B. Allen expressed that he is opposed to the amendment. He reviewed the previous administrative selections and stated that we do not have a good track record going out after external candidates. He stated that R. Casey's appointment to Dean of the Faculty was the exception and added that "even a blind pig can find an acorn once in a while." B. Allen emphasized that he did not see the reason for a national search. R. Casey stated that in a national search, the most likely candidates will be Associate Deans or Deans of Arts & Sciences at larger institutions. At many liberal arts institutions, the Dean of the Faculty also serves as the Academic Vice President.

L. Laws stated that she was on the search committee that brought R. Casey to Rollins and also served on the Presidential search committee. She pointed out that under normal circumstances it is healthy to do this. She stated that, based on the incredible teamwork and synergy that has been established in the Dean of the Faculty's office, we should explore other possible options. She expressed concern of bringing someone in to serve as interim, especially since Associate Dean Hoyt Edge has invested 4 years in learning the position, and then have an external person be appointed and spend another year of listening to the institution. She asked about the possibility of having an interim Dean appointment for three years. T. Cook stated that this can only be done if the current motion is defeated. D. Stoub stated that this does not preclude having an excellent internal candidate. B. Levis echoed this point.

The question was called by voice vote.

M. McClaren requested a written vote on the motion. Ballots (blank paper) were distributed and T Cook announced that faculty were to mark their ballot on the motion - Yes or No

The motion:

We propose that

We begin a national search for a new Dean of the Faculty commencing in the Fall 2006

An interim Dean be appointed to serve for a year while the search process is underway.

The interim dean may not be a candidate for the search.

Passed by a vote of 45 - Yes to 25 - No.

V. **Adjournment:** There was a motion to adjourn and the motion was passed at 1:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Bommelje
Vice-President/Secretary