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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee

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Minutes of the November 6, 2012, Finance and Service Committee Meeting

Attending:

Elise Albin
Anna Alon
Leon Hayner
Micki Meyer
Bob Moore
Blake Ramsey
Paul Reich
Bill Short (for Jeff Eisenbarth - Ex-officio Member)
Joe Siry
Bob Smither
Cynthia Snyder

Absent:

Eric Zivot
Eren Tatari
Mary Faith Birthisal

The meeting began at 12:30. Minutes taken by Anna Alon.

Old Business

As approved by the F&S at the last meeting, Bob Moore presented to EC the proposal to increase faculty travel funds. EC asked for more information and one member recommended not to change the reimbursement rate from 80% to 70% when faculty is attending the conference but not presenting. Bill Short obtained some data to compare travel reimbursement policies. For example, Rhodes College has endowment that is somewhat close to Rollins. Their travel policy is included below:

Rhodes College (according to U.S. News endowment \$283,371,967 vs Rollins \$352,937,000)

Each faculty member is granted \$2,000 annually for travel. Unused travel funds are rolled forward from year to year, so faculty may accumulate unused portions of their annual travel allowance for use in future years up to a maximum balance of \$5,000. There is no distinction with regard to destination or participation/non-participation.

The Rollins faculty travel policy was established in 1992. Since then, inflation has resulted in \$1.00 (1992) dollar being the equivalent of \$1.63 in current dollars.

Multiplying the figures of \$1,200 and \$1,500 by the inflation factor of 1.63 yields the following amount: \$1,956 and \$2,445.

There was a concern that increasing travel allotment per faculty will result in the increase in faculty travel where funds available will not be sufficient. The overall increase in the amount budgeted will be needed.

Our revised proposal is to increase travel funds to \$2,000/domestic and \$2,500/international with the overall budget increased to \$350K. The overall amount is based on the current number of trips (170) times \$2,000 per trip. Additional 10K is to account for some trips being international and requiring \$2,500. After a majority vote in support, Bob Moore has been asked to take it the EC for consideration. EC can recommend whether this needs to be presented to the faculty or can be addressed as part of the budgeting process.

New Business

Charlie Rock examined discount rate calculation and administrative/faculty pay. We can invite him to present at a future meeting in 2013.

Staff and students would like to see more regular communication from the administration and improved flow of information. Micki Meyers will contact Staff Advisory Committee to see if it is possible to have regularly-scheduled annual or bi-annual meetings where staff can hear from Vice Presidents, Provost, and/or President on the state of the college.

Students would like to organize a town hall style meeting and receive similar information. Also, students may not be aware that service problems can be reported via service obstacle reporting. Bill Short will forward the link to F&S.

Salary compression issue was brought up earlier in the semester. Bob Moore followed up with the Provost. Analysis is being done on gender equality in pay and salary compression but it is not yet complete. HR should have staff pay data for a similar analysis.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45.