

11-17-2009

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee

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Recommended Citation

Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2009" (2009). *Finance and Service Committee Minutes*. Paper 27.
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Finance & Services Committee Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Meeting called to order: 12:35pm

Attendees: Lisa Tillmann, Eric Schutz, Tonia Warnecke, Mandy Booker, Larry Van Sickle, Ken Pestka

Tonia volunteered to be minutes-taker.

Lisa welcomed Ken to the committee.

Due to technical difficulties, the minutes from the October meeting were unable to be replicated in time for the meeting. They will be sent electronically and any amendments to those minutes will be emailed to Artie Grizzle.

IT Forum Review

There was an overall positive impression from the IT Forum held on 10.30.09. Faculty turnout was good for a late Friday afternoon, and all attendees seemed pleased with the opportunity to interact with the new CIO (Pat).

Lisa proposed that F&S sponsor an IT Faculty Forum every year to maintain this type of collaborative contact. Committee members agreed.

Compensation review

The Provost's office will be compiling compensation data for special projects, overload teaching, teaching at Crummer, teaching at Holt, and Maymester.

F&S and Professional Standards will then review the data and determine whether and in what manner to follow up on this.

Board of Trustees representation

Lisa reported that she had given a PowerPoint presentation to Crummer faculty. The faculty determined that they were not interested in pursuing Crummer representation on the Board of Trustees.

Larry inquired as to why we should not ask for representation on Development and Investment committees of the Board. Lisa responded that those committees may be of less direct relevance to the faculty and that we should be careful not to overwhelm the faculty with the need to fill too many positions.

Larry asked how often the Board of Trustees committees actually meet, since this will be of interest to faculty members when we submit our proposal to them. Lisa will ask for clarification at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Several committee members voiced the feeling that the culture regarding faculty participation on the Board of Trustees has changed over the course of the last several months, and that since all involved parties have had more time to think about the issue, hopefully this will work in favor of the proposal.

Lisa noted that we have proceeded in a very orderly fashion on this issue; we have collected data, hosted a colloquium, and checked out Crummer's interest in participation on the Board. Now it is time to bring the issue before the faculty.

Eric noted that the only problem with our proposal may be the number of people involved, and the number of committees we are requesting to participate on. Lisa responded that we can refer to data to show that faculty participation on Board of Trustees committees is quite normal.

Ken asked if there is a certain ranking of preference that F&S has regarding the committees, or if we had to drop a committee from our list, which would it be. Lisa and Eric responded that there is no such ranking and we intend to ask for participation in each committee currently on our short list.

Eric noted that even if faculty participation is ultimately not allowed on the Board of Trustees committees, that if the faculty vote for it, at least that is a statement to the Board in of itself.

Lisa mentioned that a 3 year rotation for at-large representatives makes sense for continuity purposes, since Governance Committee chairs are only chairs for 1 year, and the Faculty President is President for 2 years. Ideas for maintaining continuity include debriefing new participants.

Lisa invited a motion, seconded by Eric and Larry, to bring the draft proposal to the Executive Committee. It was decided among all members that we would leave the language 'participant' in the draft.

Fair Labor Initiative

Ken will further research Vesi, Tonia will further research The Franchise, and Eric will turn in his company research in the next week and a half.

Lisa noted that the bookstore does have a code of conduct, and since some of the companies which sell apparel to our bookstore have citations, we need a campus-wide policy as well as an idea of how the bookstore will react. It was agreed that the data collection for this project is challenging, since companies have vested interests in putting their best face forward. Right now we are framing the issue with data collection.

Larry inquired what is really needed in order for Rollins to join the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC)?

Lisa said that she thinks approval from the President would be needed if SGA cannot fund the membership fee/dues by themselves. The dues may be 1% of revenue from bookstore sales of apparel, or \$1500, but Larry is going to verify this.

Eric inquired as to whether we should broaden the Fair Labor Initiative to include Rollins jobs which are contracted out (e.g., housekeeping/custodial, etc.) Larry inquired who we contract those jobs to, and no one knew.

Eric is in favor of a fair labor clause which includes contractors, the bookstore, athletic vendors, and a living wage. Lisa and Larry mentioned that it may be better to proceed with the Rollins gear issue and then deal with the living wage, etc. at a later date, so as to keep our proposals simple. Eric mentioned that it matters a great deal whether benefits are included in the living wage, in terms of whether an institution actually provides one.

We are inviting Maria to come to the January meeting to provide us some living wage information.

Lisa suggested that we will likely be advocating for the College to join the WRC after we wrap up our data collection. She was unsure whether the WRC is a faculty issue or not.

Lisa inquired as to whether other universities have a comprehensive Fair Labor clause; Eric said he will research this issue by January.

Lisa noted that students are going to draft a proposal for joining the WRC.

Meeting adjourned: 1:44pm