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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 17, 2005

Arts & Sciences Executive Committee

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Minutes of the Meeting
Executive Committee of the Arts and Sciences
February 17, 2005

Members attending: L. Duncan, P. Lancaster, R. Casey, Y. Greenberg, S. Lackman, N. Decker, D. Griffin, P. Bernal, S. Klemann, P Neinken. Guest: R. Carson

I. Call to Order: Yehudit Greenberg called the meeting to order at 12:33.

II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of February 3 were approved as edited.

III. Reminders: An Executive Committee Meeting will be held March 9, 8 – 9:30 a.m., Warden Dining Room.

IV. Greenberg reported that President Duncan was open to the possibility of faculty representation on the Board of Trustees and saw the appropriateness of such representation, especially on the Education Committee. Lancaster drew parallels with the Alumni Trustee position and said she would investigate.

V. AAC Proposal – Health and Wellness (Klemann, Carson) – the proposal was brought off the table, and discussion resumed. Carson responded to the Executive Committee’s questions from the previous meeting and brought a list of recommendations. Discussion on the lifetime activity courses was clarified. The BPE activity requirement will be discontinued. Out of the 140 credits needed for graduation, a student may get between two and four credits for activity courses. Normally, a student does not take more than one course per term. Credit is being given (where it is not now) because this indicates seriousness of the requirement to the students. Casey noted he is appreciative of all the work that has been done on this project. He questioned the budgetary constraints involved in having the Wellness requirement be an extension of the RCC. One of his concerns is that we do not have Physical Education established as a sustainability model; he suggested we elevate PE faculty to tenure and tenure-track. Casey believes we are continuing to straddle the model of a program that is not taught by tenure-track faculty, but is still important to the College. Carson was concerned that if it is not done in this method suggested, we lose the opportunity to positively affect the health of our community. Klemann reviewed the efforts the AAC and task force exerted to create the ideal program under the constraints of budget and staffing, and under the resolutions passed by the Faculty. Griffin pointed out that tenured faculty would have to teach more than one course, which may lead to curricular issues. Casey agreed that we can’t do anything other than what is being suggested. He suggested that, ideally, the concepts of health and wellness should be infused into the residence halls, but that was discussed in the AAC and seemed impractical. The committee included members of the college community from the Student Affairs area, as well as from various faculty involved in areas such as counseling. The task force has examined grants and funding sources. A sustainable change to the curriculum would require a two million dollar endowment. The College requires the Athletic Director to have a terminal degree. Physical education is part of a liberal education. The core question is, however, are we willing to put our next two million dollar endowment toward this physical education program? The concept of a

healthy lifestyle seems to be the image, especially to the visitor to the campus. Duncan asked if this requirement applied to the Holt students as well; Lancaster said there is no requirement for physical education, but that Holt students are eligible to use athletic facilities. Lancaster said we had to bring this proposal to the faculty and ask their opinion. The suggestion is that the faculty be given the option to give credit for activity courses, and then bring the task force report to the faculty for information purposes. The Executive Committee endorsed taking the credit proposal to the faculty. Carson would like a sense of the faculty to see if there is an endorsement to pursue funding. Griffin pointed out that the three concerns are: (1) do we support of hiring nontenure-track faculty; (2) is this a high-enough priority that faculty supports funding; and (3) should there be more RCC-type requirements for the students in the freshman year.

VI. AAC – Foreign Language Requirement (Klemann) – Klemann presented the revised requirement and placement policy within the Department of Modern Languages and Literature. The proposal is consistent with requirements in Foreign Language at similar institutions. There is some cost associated with this, but it is feasible. A higher level of standard would be financially prohibitive at this time. In three years the proposal will be revisited to see if there could be elevation to a higher standard. Casey reviewed costs across the spectrum of all the languages offered at the college. Some languages may be offered for an enrichment purpose, but may not go far enough to satisfy the language requirement. This proposal will be presented to the faculty at the next meeting.

VII. AAC also has proposals from Music, Theater, International Business, and LACA which will be discussed at the next meeting, March 3. The committee is asked to review these proposals before then.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susan Cohn Lackman, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Vice-President/Secretary