

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting  
Willamette University  
College of Liberal Arts  
October 9, 2007

Dean Long pirate-whistled the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., and 70-plus members were present at that time. More joined the meeting in progress. Carol explained the process of gaining access to meeting notes and pertinent paperwork for faculty meetings, in terms of using an electronic format only.

Charlie read the meditation from John Ridlin on "Grading." An experienced teacher can grade anything. The cat. The morning. The dog. The moon last night. Colleagues. Himself. Grade inflation is noted as well.

The minutes from the Apr. 10, 2007, faculty meeting were approved without revision.

David McCreery: Faculty Council Report

Council's main problem in staying on schedule is that files are not complete. David reported that an erroneous due date for letters appeared in some requests, so he urged everyone to please send in requested letters asap regardless of due date.

Chuck Williamson: Academic Council Report

Action Item: I/T grading. Discussion centered on questions concerning I and T grades being rolled into one. Thirty days into the next semester will be the deadline for students. David Douglass suggested that incompletes often do not turn out well and he urged faculty avoid them. Students need legitimate reasons and a plan to go forward. A friendly amendment was put forward by Professor Douglass that unfinished work be given a zero (not an "F"). Medical incompletes must still be approved by faculty. A point of clarification by Russ Cagle reminded us that medical withdrawal is different, and can be done through the health center. The item was passed by faculty vote.

Information Items: Chuck Williamson clarified that the search procedures document distributed for this meeting was meant only to address issues on process for committees doing searches for joint positions. Further conversation and revision will be undertaken to address diversity issues in searches. Several questions were raised about search procedures, including number of individuals sent to conferences for interviewing, budget for meals during searches, and the somewhat dangerous overlap between procedures and policy.

The change in the CLA catalog prose on QA courses is being tabled for now. It will be readdressed after further discussion.

Annie Russell was introduced as our new University Registrar.

#### Grant Thorsett: Academic Programs

Grant reported that feedback from early release of materials is appreciated. He moved to approve the programs document as a whole. Robert Trapp raised a question about the use of the term “white supremacy” in the description of AES 354, which was answered by Emily Drew. Some revision will be undertaken. All courses were approved; any changes in AES 354 will be sent out as an information item. There is one more chance for new courses to be approved before the online schedule is released. April Overstreet asked about one-time only courses with Asian Studies 201 listed as meeting every semester. Grant explained that this was a one-time course with a chance to be resubmitted as a new course.

#### Jeff Eisenbarth: Budget Report

Vice President Eisenbarth spoke about last year’s potential deficit and reported that the budget was balanced without academic cuts. The endowment is up (which will be helpful in the long run, but not right now), and we are getting closer to a five-percent spending rate. We had a record year in fund raising.

Fall enrollments were met except for CLA in freshmen (which was low by about 52 students). Total enrollment was over 1,900 last year and is currently at 1,789. Maintaining current enrollment needs a bigger class next year, which will be a challenge while maintaining discount rate of 45 percent.

Vice President Eisenbarth produced a little brown box to provide the answer to budget woes; inside was the easy button that says “that was easy.” Health insurance costs through our consortium will remain the same; there is no word yet on Kaiser Permanente costs for next year.

Bill Smaldone asked about student/teacher ratio with fewer students. With additional faculty, the ratio will be down to about 9:1. Catherine Collins asked about the realistic number of students next year. Jeff responded that eventually we are aiming for approximately 1,700 students, a goal to be reached over the next few years. The target remains the same even with new faculty.

There was a motion to adjourn at 12:31 p.m. So approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Abendroth-Smith  
Faculty Secretary