

EPAG Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2009

3:30-5:00

Campus Center 214

Kendrick Brown, Pete Ferderer (chair), Terri Fishel, Terry Krier, Carleton Macy, David Martyn, Andrew Meeker, Ann Minnick, Kathy Murray, Jayne Niemi, Terence Steinberg, Tom Varberg, Eric Wiertelak

1. The minutes of February 2, 2009 were approved.
2. Our new student representative, Andrew Meeker was introduced. He is a senior geography major and Environmental Studies major, originally from the suburbs of New York.
3. Announcement: Karin Aguilar San Juan will be visiting us next week to talk about the Mellon grant.
4. Announcement: Kathy is preparing a letter to department chairs about allocations. The deadline is March 9th. Allocation requests will be limited to replacing faculty who are leaving. Budgeting at the College is reported to be behind schedule. How does this affect our allocation deliberation issues? What kind of scrutiny will or should these allocation requests receive? The letter says the allocations committee would rank them, and then when we know more about budget issues, the rankings will be used as necessary for decisions. This is intended to be one-time process due to the challenges of the current economy, not a permanent process change for the way allocation requests are considered. Kathy reviewed the possibilities that we know about, but the final number is still evolving. We might do a lot of waiting to see what the economy does. The criteria we used this fall about searches to be postponed could be useful. We all need to remind ourselves of those criteria -- David found them and will share them with all of us. Let's try to look at our April calendars, Tuesday evenings for allocation deliberations.
5. General Education update: The registrar's office can audit records of first and second year students this summer to see how many students have finished the various general education requirements, which will help us to define our need for more courses. Also, Jayne will check on capacities and actual enrollments of approved courses.
6. Faculty Meeting: What should we expect to hear at the faculty meeting? Are there rumors and worries that we should anticipate? Pete has had inquiries about allocations, governance and communication with the administration during this economic crisis.
7. Governance: Pete reviewed our conclusions from last week. One is that we don't want to shrink the size of EPAG. Also, divisional representation is simply trying to ensure that each division is represented. One thought was to solicit information from some chairs who may have ideas about consultation and implementation, not necessarily give chairs more to do. Kendrick can ask these questions on behalf of EPAG at the next chairs meeting. Regarding Proposals 1E, 1F, 1G, it was suggested that the chairs have these consultations as part of their monthly meeting

responsibilities. Kathy will schedule an Admissions person for a future chairs meeting. The question of whether the provost should stay on EPAG is still up in the air and we might not be able to make that decision without the position of Associate Provost being filled. For the time being, Kathy finds the meeting worthwhile. The discussion of criteria for discontinuing departments needs to happen before any such possibility arises. This was a gaping hole in our processes even before the economy hit the skids. A suggested model: Allocations or EPAG would be the initiator of a request to discontinue a department. Another group, a representative, impartial, and informed committee, possibly comprised of past voting members of EPAG, should exist to consider the request for discontinuation. How do we satisfy the need for the faculty to have a voice? How do we ensure that less fully-informed individuals don't influence the vote? The committee could solicit information from the faculty for consideration in their decision. Should adding a department have a parallel process? We noted that the confidence in the Faculty Personnel Committee's work is somewhat attributable to the presence of the Provost and President, as well as the consensus-based decision making.

Adjourned at 5:06.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Niemi, Registrar