

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting

March 18, 2008

3:00-3:55 p.m.

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: Ruth Colwill, Chair; James Dreier, Vice-chair; James Campbell, Albert Dahlberg, Svetlana Evdokimova, Chad Jenkins, Robert Smith

Guests: Walter Hunter, Diane Lipscombe, Robert Pelcovits

Professor Colwill called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Approval of the 3/11/08 minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

At yesterday's faculty agenda meeting, six motions were approved for presentation at the April 1 faculty meeting, all of which require amendments to the Faculty Rules and Regulations. Motions include (1) clarifying the procedure for designating Degrees with Distinction; (2) amending the election procedure for the Nominations Committee; (3) deleting the Faculty Development Advisory Board which disbanded in 2005; (4) suspending the Master of Medical Science Degree and deleting the degree and all references to it in the Faculty Rules; (5) creating the Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity and eliminating the Faculty Affairs Committee, Committee on Diversity in Hiring, and Committee on the Status of Women; and (6) a motion by the Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee (TPAC) to add a timeline for promotion review of tenured associate professors. The first four motions are not controversial and are fairly straightforward. The motion to create CFED is expected to generate discussion that may result in the motion being postponed until the May faculty meeting. Professor Colwill encouraged the FEC to talk with faculty in their departments about the CFED proposal. The criteria in the TPAC motion may very well be an issue at today's faculty forum. It is important to let faculty talk about their issues at the forum.

Professor Diane Lipscombe was invited to discuss the Academic Priorities Committee's (APC) annual report distributed with the agenda. The APC discussed the criteria for approval of new institutes as well as the definitions of programs, centers, and institutes. New proposals currently under consideration by the APC include renaming of the John Nicholas Brown Center and of the Center of Latin American Studies and a proposal for a new Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI). The Medical Faculty Executive Committee (MFEC) is currently reviewing the CTSI proposal at the recommendation of the FEC. There is a need for a better line of communication between the APC and Faculty about how to prepare and submit proposals for new entities. Perhaps the APC should put an example on their website for future presenters to follow or recommend that faculty contact a member of the APC on how to proceed. The FEC voiced concern that they have not been receiving new proposals submitted to the APC early enough in the review process. The FEC officers have already shared this concern with the Provost. It would be helpful for Professor Lipscombe, APC vice-chair, to make sure that procedures which need to be followed are communicated to the next vice-chair. Professor Lipscombe will present the APC annual report at the April 1 faculty meeting.

Vice President Walter Hunter and Professor Robert Pelcovits were invited to discuss the Human Resources Advisory Board (HRAB) annual report distributed with today's agenda. The Board works well and accomplished a lot in the past academic year. They recommended a revision to strengthen current policies for checking references of prospective new hires and the implementation of a new requirement for pre-employment criminal background checks for positions with a "risk of harm to people". They advised the FEC to consider the issue of pre-employment criminal background checks for new faculty hires. Professor Smith noted that there are undergraduate students working in hospital labs under faculty guidance. Since the new policy for criminal background checks applies to campus-based new hires, he suggests that the HRAB conduct formal discussions with institutions in the Brown Medical School so they are aware of the Policy the University is enforcing. The HRAB also recommended a reduction in the 50% contribution cap for family and two-person coverage for health insurance, which will be implemented and is expected to have a significant impact on the burden of employees in the middle and high salary range. Vice President Hunter and Professor Pelcovits will attend the April 1 faculty meeting to present the report. They would like to invite Drew Murphy to accompany them. The Parliamentarian will be notified of his attendance. The meeting adjourned to the Faculty Forum at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary