

Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2009

SEM II A1105, 1:00-3:00pm

Opening/Welcome – Rita Pougiales, **Faculty Chair**

Don Bantz, **Provost** – provided opening remarks in support of the retreat timing and content, indicating that having it before classes start honors the work of prior faculty and brings new faculty perspectives. He thanked Nancy Murray, Laura Coghlan and the Summer Institute planners and gave an overview of work that happened over the summer. With budget woes (discussed in more detail later) he suggested the College needs to work in a more focused way on our distinctive competencies. Examples:

1. CCAM – encourages you to see/use.
2. Over-enrollment - using reserves to fund and support one-time-hires

He indicated that he and the Agenda Committee have plans to continue to move forward the summer work. Don reminded the faculty that one deans position was eliminated through the budget cuts. Don indicated he would be a resource faculty in the Awakening the Dreamer program during fall quarter.

Faculty Chair – Rita acknowledged Terry Setter and Julie Slone for their work from last year's agenda committee and chair to this current year. She expressed her desire to fully support the current and important work centered around teaching and learning at the College. She indicated that questions have been raised around whether or not faculty and staff are supporting student learning in the way we hope and intend to and that the issues are important and time is precious. She expressed her sense that faculty when faculty come together good work occurs, as in this summer's institutes on teaching and learning.

Adopt Rules of Order for 09-10 Faculty Meeting – Krishna entertained a motion that we adopt Robert's Rules of order, which was seconded, moved and then accepted without debate.

New Faculty –Rita welcomed the new faculty and asked that they stand and be recognized. She also asked the new faculty to participate actively and indicated that all members of the faculty, regardless of contract, are eligible to vote.

Agenda Committee Introductions – Agenda Committee members came up front and introduced themselves and gave their office locations.

Agenda Committee Priorities – Rita indicated the group is meant to be a representative of the faculty vs. an autonomous body. The A/C sets priorities, welcomes input and shares information with the faculty. In that spirit, she shared the priorities identified by the Agenda Committee for response.

1. The Agenda Committee identified a theme for this year's work: Re-thinking Teaching and Learning at Evergreen: An Eye to the Future to indicate an active consideration and review. They plan to carry forward this past summer's work which began with the transcript review and faculty retreat discussion. A working group will be charged that draws on faculty and key staff to engage faculty in additional discussion and carry the work forward that rises to the top for implementation in the areas of academic advising (particularly working with students on making good use of the freedom they are offered in their education), curriculum (to review the opportunities we are providing to students to meet the six expectations) and transcripts (how well they articulate student voice; how they provide a window into what is and is not working in our current academic structure). Breadth of learning is also an important aspect of this work. A governance group discussion is planned for week 2 (October 7th). A question was raised regarding why this is not a DTF and how faculty will be consulted. Rita responded that the group will immediately bring proposals to faculty and then take the major themes that arise to further pursue. Nancy also added that "DTF" has some history that provided a lot of faculty input and was then shelved.
2. Educating Faculty on the Collective Bargaining Agreement
3. Governance – the Agenda Committee matches faculty to governance work. The CBA provides some new guidance here. There will be a working group that will provide further guidance.
4. Response to financial situations as they arise with the support of the FAP.
5. Faculty Handbook Revision Group

A question was raised on whether or not the Agenda Committee has overlooked any issues. It was responded that with the economic stress many students are facing they should be considered, as well as the flu.

Budget (State and College) – Julie Suchanek was first congratulated on her new Ph.D. She then provided an update on the state budget pointing out that the state budget gets most of its revenue from sales tax and people aren't spending money. She shared a power point presentation that provided an overview of the most recent state information, including:

- The June 2009 revenue forecast was short \$450 million
- In June, 2009 the governor directed state agencies to reduce FTEs by 2% (10 FTE for Evergreen) and to continue to limit expenditures in out of state travel, personal services contracts and non-essential equipment (approx \$500,000 for Evergreen)
- In June, 2009 President Purce issued a directive to follow the limitations in expenditures outlined above.
- In August 2009 there were case load increases and court cases regarding budget reductions to human services were reversed.
- In September, 2009 the forecast was released indicating revenues are down by an additional \$238 million more than the June forecast. The estimated state budget deficit is \$1 billion.
- A Special Session this fall is unlikely

Julie cautioned that the college will need to take this step by step and suggested the following cues should be watched:

- K-12 court case decision pending
- Voter initiatives Nov 3 (such as Eyman's initiative 1033 which would have impacts on local and state spending of revenues)
- Revenue forecast November 19
- Governor's supplemental budget December 2009
- 2010 Legislative session January 11

Julie identified next steps for Evergreen as follows:

- Continue to be financially conservative
- Continue open communications
- Office of Governmental Relations
 - Identify 5-10 faculty to be on call
 - Follow her blog, the College website and Facebook for the latest information
 - Work with Evergreen CFR and SWA representatives

Contact Information: Julie Suchanek 360-867-6453 suchanej@evergreen.edu

A question was raised about whether there are other approaches other than encouraging people to increase spending to seek solvency in state budget.

Question - Where is the stimulus monies? (We used it up already – it was for the 2009-11 biennium.)

Question – What about sustainability with the current cuts? (We'll continue to be solution oriented.)

Don commended and thanked Julie for her work with the Legislature, including the work she is doing on the federal level to gain support and recognition for the College's Curriculum for the Bioregion work. He indicated that we took a 7% cut before June, and an additional 2% since then. Don then went on to say that the information we know so far suggests another 3-4%, or \$1 million cut. Don suggested we're working with the same budget we had 10 years ago but with 1000 more students.

Walter then went on to identify that the process will mirror last year, which was difficult. He suggested that the A/C and FAP communication with faculty and the UFE needs continual improvement but still wants to pursue the work with transparency and clarity. He indicated he is open to suggestions in case we need to go forth with additional cuts. He also indicated that we would start with the same list as last year, which prioritized cuts up to 15-20%, which is further than were taken. He indicated that it will be very difficult for Academics to take a fair share of additional cuts in the range of 2-4% and that there is likely to be a discussion between divisions about disproportionate cuts.

Discussion ensued, including:

- A request that faculty receive access to the entire College's budget in a more timely way. (Walter conveyed that he will advocate for this and also indicated that there were reasons other division chose not to share specific information that would identify particular positions at risk.)

- There was a great cost for many in last year's process that was caustic. (Walter indicated that he hopes that can work with an eye toward a common cause.)
- Question raised regarding how over-enrollment is affecting the budget? (Uncertain; Walter indicated that most of the expenditure is in faculty lines to maintain the faculty/student ratio.)
- Question raised regarding how much can a College take in cuts before needing to declare financial exigency. (We're not close to that yet.)

Construction Update – Azeem Hoosein provided the following project updates:

- COM Building approved by BOT (in design phase – hiring/contracting for an architect for 2009-11 design, no construction \$ yet – hoping for 2011-13 funding);
- Art Annex (in design phase, also funded for construction from June 2010 to July 2011);
- Sustainability - Ag Lab (near organic farm, in design phase, funded for construction);
- SEM I re-roofing – completed.
- CAB on schedule w/in budget (90% complete on demolition, 80% complete with abatement); Longhouse (99% completed, working on the punch list);
- CCAM (completed);
- Roundabout (completed);
- Library (completed);
- Fire/Smoke Alarms (completed).
- Driftwood Loop drainage, guardrails.

Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees – Andy Buchman, this year's Representative, gave a brief overview of his work as an informal conduit for the faculty. He requested that faculty send their thoughts and ideas to him as he gets 5 minutes to report at each meeting. He indicated this board is relatively new, all of whom began their tenure in the last 10 years. He gave a brief overview of the last meeting's discussion, held on September 15.

Announcements

1. Allen Olson - Conversion Panels – In the past, the faculty-at-large conversion panelists have been put together by the Agenda Committee. With agreement from the Agenda Committee, it was agreed that the six furlough groups would form the rotation for the at-large members. The Deans will decide who serves in the Spring.
2. Nancy Murray reminded faculty about the September Symposium this Friday, September 25.
3. Tina Schubert - Care Network is available for faculty, staff and students. It can assist with conflict and referral, training is also available.
4. Board of Governors – Kevin Francis shared that the Foundation grant program for faculty development is continuing, as is the Foundation Activity Grant program for students.

5. Program Coordinators – Ken Tabbutt - the annual meeting is at 3:15 today in SEM 2 D3415..
6. Swine Flu – Elizabeth McHugh -- evergreen.edu/flu provides current information. Current efforts are on prevention. Have been working hard to get the message out to students to stay home when they are sick. She asked faculty to create an absenteeism policy for their class. She suggested that it is a fever along with other symptoms that will determine whether or not this is influenza. She also asked that students be told to call the Health Center vs. show up in order to minimize the risk to others. She also shared they have the vaccines available for the seasonal flu now and have pre-ordered the H1N1 vaccine for when it becomes available (likely mid to late October). If faculty start noticing trends of absenteeism it would be helpful if they provide that information to the Health Center. It was suggested that Elizabeth put out a request to the entire faculty.
7. New Consciousness Studies planning unit invites you to a new “Sentient Salon” gathering that will be held each Wednesday in COM 307 from 12-1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned