

Faculty Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2010

SEM II C1105, 1:00-3:00pm

Rita Pougiales opened the meeting at 1:18 with an invitation of brief **announcements**:

1. The Student Affairs Pancake Brunch/Auction will be in February 26th
2. Joe Tougas announced the Willi Unsoeld Seminar, which is tomorrow at 7:00 featuring Dan Mazur, a mountaineer and citizen activist for the people of Nepal. Rita followed with a description of Willi Unsoeld, a founding faculty member at Evergreen.
3. Trevor Van Dyke, GSU representative, reminded faculty of the student walk-out planned this Friday, motivated around state budget cuts. He invited faculty to sign up to speak at the 11:30 rally on issues related to the budget.
4. Sarah Ryan announced a rally organized by the Washington Education Association regarding the budget. They will sponsor a “meet and greet” at Temple Beth Hatviloh next Monday (15th), followed by a walk to the Capitol.
5. Peter Bohmer announced that Howard Zinn, who recently passed away, will be celebrated on campus on Saturday, February 6, 3:00 Lecture Hall One (this was the day Zinn was supposed to give a presentation at Evergreen).
6. Sandy Yannone announced that there will be an info session for her spring quarter Cultivating Voice class (which prepares students to become tutors) next Wednesday, Feb 10, in the writing center.
7. Nancy Murray announced a brown bag lunch talk next Thursday at noon in the Library Underground featuring Sandy Yannone and Steven Hendricks.

Provost Transition -- Rita introduced Don Bantz to provide some final remarks regarding his time as Provost. He began by thanking Sarah Pedersen for stepping up as interim Budget Dean as Ken moves to Interim Provost. He then went on to make some final remarks, summarized below:

Evergreen is a unique and very special place, which we sometimes forget. He described his 12 years as faculty, 3 years as dean and 7 years as provost as filled with rich opportunities which, in total, prepared him for his next career move. He asked faculty to remember that as the College continues to go through hard times individual and planning unit interests should be transcended so the collective interest of the faculty comes to bear, in concert with the collective wisdom of the staff. He indicated that the “third floor” is working on behalf of the faculty, and contesting the strong move towards anti-intellectualism that is currently at work in many venues external to the College. Don went on to describe Washington state’s place in the bottom 5 regarding per capita funding designated to higher education yet in the top 4 in degree production efficiency.

Don concluded his remarks by describing the distinctive competencies and passion of the faculty, both veterans and the 55 faculty hired during his tenure as Provost. His parting advice to faculty: “above all else, tend those fires.”

Incoming Interim Provost **Ken Tabbutt** provided some remarks. He talked about college visits he is going on with his son, who is a high school senior. He indicated that these visits cause him to reflect back to 1978 when he was looking at Colleges. He provided the following comparisons:

- ‘Staying Alive’ was at the top of the charts
- Rita Pougiales was about to be hired by Evergreen,
- There were 2034 students in contrast to today’s 4639
- Tuition and fees were \$507/year in contrast to over \$5400/year today
- Faculty salaries started at \$16,130 where now they start at \$44,000
- There was a 20-1 student-faculty ratio – now it’s 25-1.

Ken went on to point out phrases in the 1978 College Catalog – Interdisciplinary Teaching, Learning Communities, Service Learning, Commitment to Sustainability, Students defining their own academic pathway, etc. He indicated that the College is facing hard challenges and that the entire college will need to be involved in determining our long term plans that retain our core values.

The following comments ensued:

- **Andrew Buchman** indicated he was hired at the same time as Don and that they were band-mates in a percussion ensemble. He gave brief background information on Don: Don earned his Doctorate of PA from USC and then moved to Anchorage, Alaska from 1974-1986. He became known for pioneering the idea that wellness, not just treating illness, should be on the agenda and received an award for Alaska’s public administrator of the year in 1984. Andrew went on to describe Alaska Pacific University, where Don will soon be President. He acknowledged Don’s work at Evergreen. The Agenda Committee, on behalf of the faculty, presented a book to Don as a token of gratitude.
- Steve Scheuerell followed by acknowledging Don’s sincere welcome to Steve’s cohort and his encouragement to take risks.
- Nancy Murray followed with a request that Don leave his tie for Ken (Don indicated he would bequeath his Geoduck tie to Ken).
- Kathleen Eamon echoed Steve’s comments. When she was hired the following year, Don also provided a similar warm welcome to her cohort.

Faculty Chair (10-11) and Faculty Chair-elect (11-12). She indicated that Andrew Reece, the only faculty member willing to stand, has agreed to stand for chair-elect. She opened the floor to further nominations for chair: It was asked why the chair is not coming from the Agenda Committee, which has been a past practice. It was clarified that this a practice, not a requirement. Nominations included:

1. Chico Herbison (who indicated his intent to decline)
2. Andrew Buchman (who indicated he and Rob Knapp, who was nominated earlier, are both on leave in Spring 2011)

Andrew Reece was elected chair by unanimous vote.

Re-Modeling Teaching and Learning DTF Update – Kathleen Eamon, Co-chair, provided an update on the work of the DTF's. She indicated the DTF is working in sub-committees to come up with options for discussion related to student voice in the transcript and advising. She provided a brief description of a conference she and Julia attended that provided a more national perspective related to this work. She indicated she the DTF will bring their draft proposals to the week 7 faculty meeting for more detailed discussion.

Provost Search Update – President Les Purce began with an acknowledgment of Don's work with him on behalf of the college externally, work that he is very good at. He indicated that Don has always been grounded around keeping teaching and learning at the center, which made a significant difference in his work on the state-level advocating for the college. He described Don as a fierce protector of the faculty and the academic mission of the college.

Les turned to the Provost search and indicated he would like the search committee to be formed by the end of February. Les indicated he will be the one to appoint a chair and the Agenda Committee will select the other faculty to serve on the search committee. He suggested the new Provost will be someone selected for the future of the college, beyond his presidency. His criteria for chair include major governance experience, experience working with administration, a tolerance for ambiguity, and likely to be here for the future of the college (likely someone who has been here for 10-15 years). Les indicated he does not have a candidate in mind and is looking to the faculty for feedback. Les indicated he will next begin working on a job description and with the Agenda Committee to identify a diverse faculty to serve. Additionally, Les will talk to the other divisions for representation, as well as students and alumni. It was suggested that a UFE steward be part of the committee.

Council of Faculty Representatives Update – CFR Representatives **Jon Davies, David Shaw and Ralph Murphy** were introduced. Ralph reported that we haven't really seen the depth of the budget cuts in our daily lives yet, but that they're quite significant. He suggested that it's difficult to speak of higher education with all the human issues being presented but the CFR feels it's their responsibility to speak on behalf of students and to spur a public interest in public education. He suggested that the percentage of state support continues to drop below student tuition funding. Ralph indicated that there is no consensus on tuition setting among the 4 year institutions. He suggested that the State has been investing in the 2 years colleges, while 4 year college investing is at a stand still. He indicated that the primary issues the CFR is concentrating on are:

- Full State-based financial funding for the State Need Grant
- Restoring Washington State funding to higher education
- Disproportionate funding of 2 years colleges versus 4 year higher education institutions.

Faculty indicated unanimous support of the CFR's agenda.

Legislative Update – Julie Suchanek provided a general context: current shortfall is \$2.6 billion but have heard projections that the February forecast will be between \$3-4 billion. She went on to discuss the difference between the book one state budget and the book two, which is currently being crafted. She suggested that the legislation currently in progress is regarding tax bills and loopholes. The Governor is hopeful that we will receive Medicaid money and that she would then back that out of the budget. She indicated that this is particularly complex given this is a supplemental budget not designed for major policy but the significance of the cuts make it necessary to address major policy issues. She suggested that the two budgets (house, senate) will not favor higher education, including only partial funding of the state need grants. She indicated that policy legislation may indicate how the cut will be taken. Julie indicated that she is still promoting the biomass gasification, which is one of the highlights of her work this session. Julie was asked to expand on her understanding of directives regarding Evergreen's cuts (furloughs, exempt pay freeze, leave without pay, reduced pay, retirements). She indicated that Exemptions include classroom instruction. Frustration has been expressed by many between what is politically smart and what is smart policy.

Questions arose regarding school loan legislation. Julie indicated she has a blog and to feel free to contact her with any additional questions. A question was raised regarding what won't be funded by funding the state need grant. Steve Trotter clarified that the cuts to state need grant are cuts to a large % of Evergreen's student. He further explained that for many students, there is a double impact with the loss of both the state need grant and work study awards. Ralph also clarified that when the 14% tuition increase in each of the two years of the biennium were passed, there was a promise of financial aid that would offset the increase. It was noted that there would be many areas of the college that would no longer be able to provide employment experiences for students that are often preparatory for their work beyond college (e.g., writing center, Library, etc.).

The meeting closed at 3:01 p.m.