Faculty Meeting Minutes – 03/27/09

I. Call to Order
   a. Warren Rogers called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

II. Words from President Beebe
   a. Gayle Beebe offered comments to the faculty.
      i. Gayle reported that long-term construction financing is not yet secured due to issues in the lending system.
      ii. He indicated that funding issues are likely to prevent the construction of the new residence hall during Phase I construction.
      iii. Gayle gave an update on fundraising progress and future plans.
      iv. He reported that the Chief Academic Officer search has progressed to a list of semifinalists and that campus visits will be the next step with the finalists.
      v. Gayle related that fall enrollment is trailing last year by 10-14% but remains on-track for the year before.
      vi. He reported that the new task force on budget is postponed but will become active in the future.
      vii. Gayle conveyed that he anticipates breaking ground on the chapel in December of 2010 or May of 2011.
      viii. Gayle ended by taking questions from the faculty.

III. Faculty Devotional
    a. Niva Tro offered a devotional message to the faculty.

IV. New Faculty Introduction
    a. Judy Larson introduced herself to the faculty.

V. Business of the Faculty (led by Lisa De Boer)
   a. Approval of the Minutes from 02/20/09
      i. The minutes from the faculty meeting on February 20 were approved with two revisions.
         1. Specify the term of 3 years for Helen Rhee’s election to Faculty Council –IV.b.ii)
         2. Add the name of the faculty secretary as the submitter of the minutes.
   b. Elections: Personnel Committee, Faculty Council replacement for Fall 09, Faculty Vice-Chair
      i. The following faculty were elected to the Personnel Committee by paper ballot.
         1. Susan Penksa—Tenured Full Professor (2 year term)
         2. Chandra Mallampalli—Tenured Associate Professor (2 year term)
         3. Omedi Ochieng—Probationary Faculty (1 year term)
ii. Faculty Council and Faculty Vice-Chair
   1. Debora Dunn received unanimous acclamation by voice vote to replace Lisa de Boer on Faculty Council for Fall 2009.
   2. Following paper balloting and a second run-off ballot, Tom Fikes was selected to serve as Faculty Vice-Chair for the 2009-2010 year.

c. Update: Ray Rosentrater—Course Evaluations
   i. Ray offered an update on progress towards choosing a new instrument for course evaluations.
   ii. He indicated that following a pilot study of a new evaluation tool, faculty feedback and committee review, Academic Senate will be taking up this issue next week.
   iii. Ray reported that changes in the course evaluation instrument are made by the Chief Academic Officer in consultation with Academic Senate.
   iv. He invited faculty exploration of the proposed new instrument and solicited input to academic Senate next week.
      1. Ray noted that interested faculty could discuss the proposed new instrument those who participated in the pilot study in which it was used: Lisa De Boer, Laura Montgomery, Ray Rosentrater, Glenn Town, Rick Pointer, Jim Taylor, Tom Fikes, Niva Tro, Patti Hunter, David Newton, Paul Morgan, Edd Noel, Marianne Robbins, and Kim Kihlstrom.

d. Discussion: Handbook vs. Practice for Searches and Interviews
   Description of candidate’s on-campus interview, con’t.
      i. The faculty discussed what happens during on-campus interviews, in terms of current practices and prospective guidelines.
      ii. Lisa reported that Faculty Council will develop a report with recommendations based on its sense of the majority’s views but will also report and retain records on its understanding of the minority voice.

Lisa de Boer returned the meeting to order at 4:48 after a break.

e. Discussion: Committee Audit / Committee Restructuring
   i. The faculty discussed a potential restructuring of the committee system, drawing on options prepared by Faculty Council and comments coming out of the discussion at Faculty Forum on 3/26/09.
   ii. Lisa invited ongoing discussion and requested that comments regarding this issue be sent to Faculty Council.
VI. Dean’s Reflections
   a. Warren Rogers reported on some highlights of faculty activities.
   b. He made several announcements to the faculty:
      i. Warren requested that faculty anticipate making nominations for
teacher of the year and researcher of the year awards.
      ii. He asked that departments submit their “Senior of the Year” award
winners to Barbara Kennedy, along with the name of the presenter
and a prepared citation of 137 words or less.
      iii. Warren indicated that he will soon solicit questions for the divisional
meetings with Chief Academic Officer candidates.
      iv. Warren encouraged the faculty to make use of lists of admitted
students who have indicated interest in their departments.
   c. Warren led the faculty in prayer.

VII. Adjournment
   a. Warren Rogers adjourned the meeting at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted by Jesse Covington