Faculty Meeting Minutes—October 2, 2009

I. Call to Order  
   a. Rick Pointer called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

II. Faculty Devotional  
   a. Ken Kihlstrom shared a devotional with the faculty.

III. Report from the President  
   a. Gayle Beebe offered remarks to the faculty, including the following announcements:  
      i. The anonymous donor of the $75m gift has withdrawn the outstanding balance of the pledge.  
      ii. Westmont continues to encounter problems with bank financing.  
      iii. We will be able to finish the buildings we have started. All other building plans will be reset.  
      iv. We will cover the financial shortfall with private lending and fundraising.

IV. New Faculty Introduction  
   a. Jane Wilson introduced herself to the faculty.

V. Committee Report: Personnel Committee (Mary Docter)  
   a. Mary Doctor offered a report to the faculty. She announced:  
      i. The committee is larger than usual this year (8 members) to conduct this year’s high number of reviews (16).  
      ii. The recent release of the Guidelines and Best Practices Document that are designed to help ensure continuity and consistency between reviews.

Tom Fikes returned the meeting to order at 4:27pm after a break.

VI. Business of the Faculty  
   a. Approval of the Minutes from 9-11-2009  
      i. Tom Fikes noted a correction to VI.b.ii.5, changing the word “movement” to “motion.”  
      ii. Hearing no objections to this change, the faculty approved the minutes from the faculty meeting on September 11, 2009.

   b. Business Postponed from Previous Faculty Meeting: Motions regarding Handbook Revisions for “Search and Interview” Protocol (see attached document)  
      i. Motion: To adopt the majority recommendations for changing the description of classes and presentations in 2.1.3.1 b of the handbook.
ii. Jim Taylor moved (Paul Willis seconded) to replace the amendment proposed by Telford Work and Russ Howell with the amendment distributed by Tom Fikes on a handout distributed 10/2/09. This motion passed without objection. The text reads: “The candidate teaches at least one but preferably two classes (a lower division class and an upper division class), and offers a research presentation open to the college community. In one of these settings, or in some other setting, the candidate addresses issues of faith and learning pertinent to the position’s academic discipline. Information is solicited by the department chair from all who participated in the interview process.

Over the course of a candidate’s campus visit, the search committee must ensure that significant discussions take place with the candidate regarding:

- the candidate’s commitment to Westmont’s mission and the central role that matters of faith and learning play in faculty teaching and scholarly activity.
- the candidate’s potential for faith-learning integration
- criteria for tenure and promotion

The search committee should ensure that all candidates for the same position have comparable interview components.”

iii. Randy VanderMey moved to add “is invited to address” in place of “addresses” in the second sentence of the above text. Greg Spencer seconded.

iv. Tremper Longman moved to modify Randy’s amendment to make the sentence read “In one of these settings, the candidate is invited to address issues of faith and learning pertinent to the position’s academic discipline.” Randy VanderMey indicated he had no objection to this change.

1. The motion failed to pass in a voice vote.

v. Paul Delaney moved to strike the second sentence in the above text (i.e., “In one of these settings…”); Susan Penksa seconded.

1. Discussion was postponed.

c. Motions from Personnel Committee (see attached documents)

i. Regarding 2.2.1.4 (b), external reviewers

ii. Regarding 2.2.1 and 2.2.1.1, fundamental criterion

iii. Regarding 2.2.1.1, meaning of numerical rankings

1. Discussion was postponed.
VII. Provost’s Pointers
   a. In his comments, Rick Pointer:
      i. Announced that we do not know what the impact of the loss of the major pledge will be on the college’s operations budget in future years.
      ii. Announced that the President has approved a search for a Dean for Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness.
      iii. Announced that sabbatical and professional development grant proposals are due November 1.
      iv. Announced that a new course evaluation tool (IDEA Center) will be implemented in the Spring Semester. In the spring semester all faculty (including those with tenure) will use the form.
      v. Challenged the faculty to consider how we are meeting the call for intellectual growth and engagement with broader communities.

VIII. Adjournment
   a. Rick Pointer adjourned the meeting with prayer at 5:37.

Respectfully submitted by Jesse Covington