Faculty Meeting Minutes – September 11th, 2009

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

II. Faculty Devotional
   a. Charlie Farhadian offered a devotional to the faculty.

III. Report from the President
   a. Gayle Beebe offered remarks to the faculty, including the following announcements:
      i. The President’s Breakfast will take place on February 19, 2010.
      ii. Jeff Schloss will be installed as the first T.B. Walker Foundation Chair in the Natural and Behavioral Sciences.
      iii. While not yet in-place, task forces for health care and general budget questions will be formed in the future.
      iv. As we move forward with the strategic map, the Board has asked for a theological definition of diversity. A new task force chaired by Rick Pointer has been formed to consider this question.

IV. Report from Admissions
   a. Joyce Luy offered a report to the faculty. She announced:
      i. Admissions were unpredictable this past year and are likely to continue being unpredictable.
      ii. New trends include students opting for lower-cost educational options, staying closer to home (Westmont has more in-state students this year), experiencing difficulties acquiring loans, and applying for admission to more colleges,
      iii. Westmont received 1820 applications, admitted 80% of these, of whom 320 accepted. The total fall enrollment stands at 1173.
      iv. This new class averaged a high school GPA of 3.78, SAT of 1195-1200 SAT (national SAT averages dropped to 1016). The new class includes four Monroe Scholars, 26% diversity students, and 11 international students.
      v. Westmont stayed competitive with similar colleges, but lower-cost Christian colleges did better than usual.
      vi. Joyce also announced plans to strategically pursue students (transfers, especially) experiencing overpopulated community colleges, emphasizing the prospect of a timely graduation from Westmont.
V. Announcement from Lori Call re: Grant Opportunity
   a. Lori Call announced a grant opportunity from the Keck Foundation that is looking to support educational innovation and transformation, with particular interest in interdisciplinary and curricular work.
   b. Westmont’s pursuit of this grant will focus on how the new Adams Center for the Visual Arts might be integrated into the broader curriculum of the college.
   c. Lori solicited feedback from the faculty on how we might make art more a part of our curricula, and how we might make use of the Adams center for our programs.

Tom Fikes returned the meeting to order at 4:32pm after a break.

VI. Business of the Faculty
   a. Approval of the Minutes from 4-24-2009
      i. The faculty approved the minutes from the faculty meeting on April 24, 2009.
   b. Business Postponed from Previous Faculty Meeting: Motions regarding Handbook Revisions for “Search and Interview” Protocol
      i. Tom Fikes reviewed the motions.
      ii. Motion: To adopt the majority recommendations for changing the description of interviews and meetings in 2.1.3.1 b (2) of the handbook: (Motion 3, part 2)
          1. Tom moved for a corrective amendment to motion 3, part 2, adding “that” between “concerns” and “arise” and removal of the comma (adopted by consensus).
          2. Ray Rosentrater moved that “or representatives…” be removed from the third bullet point; Tom Fikes recommended that it be put in a new line of text under the third bullet point (adopted by consensus).
          3. Alister Chapman moved to relocate the comma and the “and” from the end of the first bullet to the end of the second bullet (adopted by consensus).
          4. Tom Fikes moved to close discussion on part two (2.1.3.1b [2]) (unopposed)
          5. The amended movement for 2.1.3.1b (2) passed by unanimous voice vote. The text reads: “(2) Informational meetings with
             • the Vice President for Finance
             • the Director of Human Resources, and
             • the Assistant to the provost for diversity initiatives,
             or representatives from these offices. While these meetings are primarily informational, questions or concerns that arise may be communicated to the search committee.”
iii. Motion: To adopt the majority recommendations for changing the description of classes and presentations in 2.1.3.1 b of the handbook.

1. Telford Work and Russ Howell moved to amend the majority recommendation for 2.1.3.1b as follows:
   a. “Modify the paragraph above the bulleted list to read as follows: ‘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’

   “Modify the first bullet point to read as follows:
   ● ‘ensure that the candidate will be able to contribute to Westmont’s mission and respects the central role that matters of faith and learning play in faculty teaching and scholarship.’”

   b. David Vander Laan moved to amend the bullet point, replacing “respects” with “is committed to”. (No objections)

   c. Rick Pointer and David Vander Laan moved to amend the bullet point to read: “…ensure that the candidate is committed to and will be able to contribute to Westmont’s mission and the central role that matters of faith and learning play in faculty teaching and scholarship.” (no objections)

   i. Voice vote on the amended bullet point was unclear; it passed by a show of hands.

   d. Dave Marten pointed out that the proposed amendment omits the last sentence of the majority recommendations (“Information is solicited by the department chair from all who participated in the interview process.”) and moved to restore it (no objection). The text that Telford and Russ propose is to be taken to replace the text before the “Information” sentence.

   e. Discussion was postponed until the next meeting (Oct 2).
VII. Provost’s Pointers  
a. In his comments, Rick Pointer:  
   i. Reported on some highlights of faculty activities and honors.  
   ii. Announced that the President and Executive Team (pending Board approval) have approved moving ahead with faculty searches in Theater Arts, Economics and Business, and English.  
   iii. Announced that assistant professor of chemistry Mako Mazuno has chosen to resign from the faculty for personal reasons.  
   iv. Shared some reflections on the theme of “who are we as a faculty?”

VIII. Honoring Colleagues Receiving Tenure and Promotion  
a. Tom Fikes recognized the following recipients of tenure and/or promotion.  
   i. Wayne Iba was honored for receiving tenure.  
   ii. Mark Nelson was honored for receiving tenure.  
   iii. Telford Work was honored for receiving tenure.  
   iv. Lisa de Boer was honored for receiving promotion to full professor.  
   v. Sue Savage was honored for receiving promotion to full professor.

IX. Adjournment to Reception  
a. At 5:38 Tom Fikes adjourned the meeting to a reception honoring the recipients of tenure of promotion.

Respectfully submitted by Jesse Covington