Faculty Meeting Minutes—December 11, 2009

I. Call to Order
   a. Rick Pointer called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

II. Faculty Devotional
   a. Omedi Ochieng offered a devotional to the faculty.

III. New Faculty Introduction
   a. Michelle Hughes introduced herself to the faculty.

IV. Report from Reed Sheard, VP and CIO for Information Technology
   a. Reed Sheard offered an update to the faculty on the state of Information Technology at Westmont, including:
      i. Ongoing work upgrading the whole network, including increased security, redundancy, wireless, and filtering.
      ii. Westmont now owns a reporting tool that will increase the college’s ability to create helpful reports. In efforts to streamline reporting, Reed is working on getting different sources of college data to interconnect and communicate with each other.
      iii. Network performance has been a problem, due to increased usage. Usage shaping is a key to the solutions being pursued.
      iv. I.T. is continuing to work on improving communication with the campus community; a task force will be a part of this process.
      v. Broadly speaking, the situation with IT is improving: our network servers have high availability; our wireless cloud is innovative; mobile communication devices are working well; we are starting to stream live athletic events; campus security is improving as well.

V. Report from Ray Rosentrater, Associate Dean of Curriculum
   a. Ray Rosentrater reported to the faculty regarding the Executive Senate meeting at the end of October. His comments noted:
      i. A survey suggested 50% of faculty are affected by the short time frame between the calendar midterm and when midterm grade reports are due. In response, Executive Senate has moved when midterm grades are due from the Tuesday of week 9 of the semester to the Monday of week 10. In addition the class “drop” deadline will move from the Friday of week 10 of the semester to the Tuesday of week 11.
      ii. A reminder regarding final exams: There should be a required summative activity in each class during the scheduled examination period. This should be clearly stated in the course syllabus.

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

a. Approval of the Minutes from 11-13-2009
   i. The faculty approved the minutes from 11-13-2009.

b. Business Postponed from Previous Faculty Meeting: Motions from personnel committee
   i. Regarding 2.2.1 and 2.2.1.1, fundamental criterion
      1. Tom Fikes called for a vote on the new language proposed by the Personnel Committee.
      2. The faculty approved the proposed changes by unanimous voice vote.
      3. The second paragraph under 2.2.1 “Evaluation” was modified to read: “Failure to meet this fundamental criterion cannot be compensated for by the meeting of other standards.”
      4. Section 2.2.1.1 “Criteria and Quantification of Criteria” was modified to read:
         "a) Criteria:
            1) fundamental criterion
            2) additional criteria
               i) teaching
               ii) professional development
               iii) institutional service
      b) Quantification:
         Whereas the fundamental criterion is either met or not, ratings for each of the three additional criteria range from one (failing) to seven (distinguished)"
   ii. Regarding 2.2.1.1, meaning of numerical rankings
      1. Deborah Dunn moved to refer the motion back to Faculty Council.
      2. Dave Newton seconded.
      3. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

c. Motion to suspend Handbook section 1.5.1.1 (triennial revision of Handbook)
   Rationale: Because of the impending changes to Academic Senate and standing committee structure over the coming year, and because of impending reorganization in the Provost’s office, Faculty Council recommends that the triennial revision of the Handbook be postponed until next academic year. The current practice of updating the electronic version of the handbook with each revision as it is approved reduces the need for a comprehensive triennial review and accompanying hardcopy revision.
   i. The faculty approved this motion by unanimous voice vote.
d. Discussion: Senate Restructuring for 2010/2011
   i. The faculty discussed the proposal from Faculty Council.

VII. Provost’s Pointers
   a. Rick Pointer offered some remarks to the faculty, including:
      i. Highlights of recent faculty accomplishments and activities.
      ii. Thanks to those who contributed to last week’s Christmas festival.
      iii. Thanks to Dave Newton and the students who contributed to the recent Economics and Business presentations.
      iv. Rick announced the hire of a one-year addition to the Chemistry Department faculty. In addition, other faculty searches are moving forward, and the faculty who have been abroad have returned safely.
      v. Rick noted that the information gathered during his recent trip to Istanbul with Bill Wright will be referred to the appropriate task forces and committees. They will assess this information with the goal of selecting a location and beginning the new off-campus program by spring 2012.
      vi. The task Force for the biblical and theological foundations for diversity is moving forward toward a brief statement on this issue.
      vii. A small working group/task force will be formed to research what other schools are doing with regard to reviewing full professors, with the goal of having something in place at Westmont for the fall of 2011.
      viii. Rick announced that on Thursday, January 14th, Richard Hughes from Messiah College will be speaking on Christian America and the Kingdom of God.
      ix. He also announced that on March 10th author Malcolm Gladwell will speak at the Arlington Theater.
      x. Rick announced that the college’s bond issue is finally resolved. Westmont will need to begin servicing this debt, which will impact the annual budget starting with next year. He indicated that future years’ budgets will be very challenging.

VIII. Adjournment
   a. Rick Pointer adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jesse Covington