

Approved April 30, 2008

Executive Council
ASB 230
April 23, 2008

Members Present: Erin Augis, Anita Stellenwerf, Susan Eisner, Eric Karlin, Steve Rice, Amruth Kumar, Marcia Sexton, Irene Kuchta, Maria Vail, Lisa Cassidy, Martha Ecker, Eddie Saiff

Members Absent: Jim Morley (absent due to jury duty)

1. President's Report

President Karlin informed Executive Council that the Board of Trustees approved the Master of Sustainability Studies at their Monday meeting. Members of Executive Council were dismayed that the Board would approve a graduate program without a vote of approval from the Faculty Assembly. President-elect Eddie Saiff briefly joined Executive Council to provide additional reaction to the Board of Trustees action. The program is listed as a decision item on the April 30 Faculty Assembly. The process for program approval is listed as a discussion item for that same meeting.

Action Item: Executive Council will draft a statement expressing its concern with the apparent disregard for Faculty Assembly approval of academic programs as an integral part of the process.

2. General Education Assessment-Martha Ecker

Vice-Provost Ecker spoke with Executive Council on the topic of General Education Assessment including the possible use of standardized testing, an overall assessment plan, and what is currently being piloted. Membership on the General Education Assessment committee includes Jillian Weiss, SSHS, Susan Petro and Katarzyna Potocka, TAS, Ed Petkus, ASB, Matt Swarts, CA, and Carter Meyer, AIS. The original goal of assessment was to review General Education, the school core, and the majors. Vice-Provost Ecker informed Executive Council on several assessment initiatives including a pre/post test in the Social Issues courses and the development of standard sets of questions for final exams in both TAS and AIS. The Committee was also charged with reviewing three standardized test options with the intent of administering one of them to First Year Seminar students and seniors in capstone courses. Student perception of how they learn plus what they learn was also discussed.

Following the departure of Vice-Provost Ecker, members of Executive Council continued discussing assessment and expressed confusion over what is being done. The following questions were developed: 1) what is the overall assessment plan? 2) Is there a calendar or timeline and can there be a flowchart of the assessment process with corresponding committees? 3) What is the faculty's role? 4) Are there plans to include student self-reflection of their learning?

Action Item: Executive Council will present these questions to Provost Barnett for her session at the May 20 In-Service.

Suggestion: It was strongly suggested that the Faculty Assembly vote to approve the assessment plan.

3. Update on the Selection of Unit Reps

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Councilor-At-Large representatives can only be from CA, AIS, ASB, or Library and must have been at the College more than 11 years. Unit votes have been postponed until the May 7 Unit Councils.

4. Minutes

Minutes of the April 16, 2008, Executive Council were approved and will be posted.

5. IPP Task Force report

Councilors Stellenwerf and Kuchta presented the preliminary report from the Implementation of Personnel Procedures Task Force. Members present engaged in a general discussion of the report and suggested edits including listing the members of the Task Force. The report will be included as a discussion item on the agenda for the April 30 Faculty Assembly.

6. Effectiveness document

At the request of the Provost, members of Executive Council drafted a document on fiscal and operational effectiveness. The current draft was approved and will be sent to Provost Barnett.

Submitted by M. Sexton, April 24, 2008