**Faculty Assembly Executive Council Minutes**

October 10, 2012, 8:30-9:15am, ASB 230

Present: Jill Weiss, Donna Crawley, Murray Sabrin, Bob Becklen, Ken McMurdy

Absent: Irene Kuchta, Tae Kwak, Jonathan Lipkin, JenneferMazza

Secretary: Rebecca Root

**1. Continued Discussion of Concerns with Hiring of Assistant Deans**

a. Last week, FA Pres. Weiss sent Pres. Mercer and Provost Barnett the Executive Council’s resolution expressing concern about the hiring of an Assistant Dean in Social Work to replace a faculty line. Pres. Mercer responded by email, reminding us that hiring of administrators is the purview of the administration and governed by our AFT-negotiated contract.

b. Discussed reasons to pursue this issue with Pres. Mercer and Provost Barnett. In this case, a failed search for a new faculty member appears to have prompted the decision to hire an Assistant Dean instead. There is also concern about the process for tenuring this person, which may not involve any direct faculty input or the regular tenure procedure used for faculty, despite the fact that if this person were to step down from the position, he or she would be entitled to join the faculty.

c. Pres. Weiss will invite Pres. Mercer, Provost Barnett, and SSHS Dean Sam Rosenberg to attend an upcoming Executive Council meeting. A question to be raised is whether other academic programs that currently are directed by faculty but that may soon pursue accreditation will then get Assistant Deans.

**2. Discussed Provost’s Council Proposed Policies**

a. VP Crawley provided a summary of the policies introduced at the September meeting of the Provost’s Council, and Secretary Root posted the summary and policy documents on the FA webpage so that faculty can review them and give feedback before they are voted upon at the Oct. 25 Provost’s Council meeting.

b. Discussed the proposed policy requiring that adjuncts have a minimum of an MA to teach undergraduate courses. Pres. Weiss notes that in Law & Society the relevant degree is often a JD rather than an MA. The Executive Council would recommend revising the language to state that the adjunct should have an MA “or equivalent degree.”

c. Discussed proposed policy limiting students to a total of 8 Independent Study credits and no more than 4 in a semester (though with exceptions possible with the approval of the dean). It is unclear what the rationale is. This policy does appear to reflect ARC’s position, so Rep. Lipkin will raise this with ARC and ask for the rationale.

d. Discussed proposed policy barring faculty with release time from simultaneously teaching overloads. Again, it is unclear what the rationale is, and the policy appears to interfere with faculty’s right to determine how to allocate their own energies and time.

**3. Discussion of ARC Agenda Items**

a. On the ARC agenda is a proposal that Developmental Math should be taken in the student’s first semester. Rep. McMurdy expressed general support for this from the Math convening group.

b. When determining the size of a major, ARC recommends including courses that double-count for Gen Ed or school core. Rep. Weiss will ask for clarification of the logic here.

c. The ARC agenda notes that the college is pursuing Masters-granting institution classification. Pres. Weiss suggested this requires faculty discussion. Some note that a good reason to pursue the classification change is that not having it creates a bureaucratic problem because the college has to ask the state for exemption for each new MA program. However, the change does raise a bigger issue about the balance between undergraduate liberal arts and graduate programs at the college. Is the Strategic Planning Task Force addressing this concern? Should we survey faculty to see what balance they support and to get other feedback?

d. ARC also noted that all majors should be 68 credits, but Vice Provost Daffron has pointed out that there is some ambiguity about how to count courses that double-count for major and school core or Gen Ed. The Executive Council expressed consensus in favor of double-counting.

**4. Other Items**

a. Board of Trustees Committee Reports: Tabled due to abbreviated meeting time.

b. Dean’s Survey: It has been prepared for distribution, and Pres. Weiss will send it out soon.

c. November 14 FA Meeting Agenda: Tabled due to abbreviated meeting time.

d. Briefly discussed need to always set meeting schedules well in advance of the following semester (preferably in June for Fall semester).

e. Unit reps are soliciting feedback from faculty about scheduling issues (for example, changing the lunch hour).