

## **Faculty Life Committee - St. Olaf College**

### **Minutes for the meeting of March 10, 2009**

**Members present:** Brian Borovsky, Beth Christensen, Eric Cole (Chair), Dona Freeman, Mary Griep, Anne Groton, Jim May, Alan Norton, Arnie Ostebee, Xun Pomponio, Judy Stromayer, Corliss Swain, Irina Walter

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Dittmann 204 (not 210!).

1. Minutes for the meeting of March 3, 2009, were approved.
2. Corliss Swain gave a report from the Action Group. Sixteen grant applications had been submitted, five for Teaching and Curriculum Development, eleven for Summer Scholarly and Artistic Activity. Requests exceeded the available amount of funding (\$35,000) by more than \$15,000. When making cuts in the proposed budgets, the subcommittee focused on meals, stipends, and expenses for which IPAT funds might be used. The subcommittee's recommendations were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.
3. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussion of preliminary results from the online survey on Professional Development Grants. After summarizing the data collected so far, Eric Cole suggested organizing the conversation around three topics (the pros and cons of offering the option of a pre-tenure leave, the pros and cons of "liberating" small grants from some of their current restrictions, and the pros and cons of changing the number and distribution of released-time grants). The ensuing discussion ranged all over the map until Anne Groton pointed out that the Issues Group had not yet held its mini-forum for pre-tenure and just-tenured faculty. It was decided to schedule that event for March 17; the FLC will meet on March 31 to discuss the final results of the online survey and the feedback collected from the mini-forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Groton

#### **Action Items:**

1. The Action Group will draft a generic letter reporting the results of the summer grant competition and send it to Arnie Ostebee. Each person who applied for a grant will receive a copy of this letter along with an official letter from the Dean's Office.
2. Anne Groton and Arnie Ostebee, on behalf of the Issues Group, will schedule a room for the mini-forum and send out e-mail invitations to pre-tenure and just-tenured faculty.