

Faculty Life Committee - St. Olaf College

Minutes for the meeting of March 3, 2009

Members Present: Brian Borovsky, Beth Christensen, Eric Cole, chair, Dona Freeman, Mary Griep, James May, ex-officio, Alan Norton, ex-officio, Arnie Ostebee, ex-officio, Xun Pomponio, Judy Stomayer, Corliss Swain, Irina Walter

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 in Dittmann 204.

1. **Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of February 10 were approved.

2. **FACE Grants:** Eric Cole will send a reminder altering the faculty to upcoming deadlines for ACM FACE grant applications.

3. **Discussion of Professional Development Grant Revisions Survey:** Eric Cole presented five models for revising professional development grants. Models will be brought before the faculty in survey form. Faculty will indicate levels of enthusiasm for the models. Discussion ensued regarding how best to present the models.

Discussion Topics included:

- a. The benefits of including the total dollar amount to be allotted.
- b. The use of language that best describes the proposal's pre-tenure *leave* (as opposed to *sabbatical* or *release*).
- c. The wisdom of leaving in a model that describes the development grant system as it currently stands.
- d. The number of models that should be presented to the faculty for consideration.
- d. Reactions to potential loss of the Release Time grant.
- e. The pros and cons of including requests for stipends. It was agreed that all language regarding stipends be shelved for now, and re-addressed at a later meeting when website language is a central focus.
- f. A reminder that the comprehensive goal guiding revisions of development grants is to better use the funds in flexible and inclusive ways that recognize and respond to the diversity of proposals and needs.

4. **Actions** taken by the committee regarding the Development Grant Revisions survey document included:

- a. Eric Cole made a motion that only four models go before the faculty in survey form, striking the model that describes the current system (model #1 of Cole's accompanying document). The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.
- b. The document to be presented to the faculty will be referred to as a survey rather than a ballot. Its purpose will be to determine the faculty's levels of enthusiasm for several potential development grant models.
- c. Eric Cole will send a draft of the survey to the members of the Faculty Life committee before sending it on to be disseminated to the faculty through the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The FLC Action Team stayed on to continue their discussion of current Curriculum Development and Summer Academic and Artistic Activity Grant proposals. That portion of the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Dona Werner Freeman