

## Faculty Life Committee--St.Olaf College

### Minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2009

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. in Dittmann Center 204.

1. Minutes for the meeting of April 7, 2009 were approved.
2. Irina Walter talked about next year's Mellby Lecture Series nominees, summarizing the letters of nomination sent to the Committee. (The FLC received three nominations.) The Committee voted to approve the nominations of Karen Wilson (Theater Department ) and Paul Zorn (Department of Mathematics) for the 2009-2010 academic year. The FLC chair will send formal letters to the nominees inviting them to accept the nomination. Once the nominations are accepted, Eric will send an e-mail to the faculty informing them about next year's Mellby Lecturers. (The third Mellby Lecture nominee could not be considered because he is on Sabbatical leave next year. Irina will write a letter to that effect to the group of faculty who sent the letter of nomination.)
3. The Committee approved the late Sabbatical request.
4. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to discussion of faculty development models regarding grant allocation. The Committee members expressed their rationale for preferring either Model # 1 (50% release time and 50% expanded access small grants) or Model # 2 (25% release time and 75% expanded access small grants). Understanding that there are many supporters among the faculty for each of the models, the Committee discussed the reasons behind each stated preference, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of both models. The Committee members feel strongly that it is singularly important that the grants energize and excite the faculty, and promote, among other things, collaborative, interdisciplinary, artistic, and curricular innovations. The Committee agreed that it will be helpful for next week's continuation of the discussion concerning the choice of the grants model to think through the larger issues that should inform the choice, such as the goals of the faculty development program and the philosophy behind it. What are we trying to accomplish with grants, what objectives are we pursuing? The Committee will vote on the model next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irina Walter