

Faculty Life Committee – St. Olaf College
Minutes for the meeting of February 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, Irina Walter

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. in Dittmann 204.

1. **Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of December 9, 2008, were approved with a few friendly amendments.
2. **Honorary degrees:** The committee plans to present two candidates for honorary degrees at the February 12, 2009, faculty meeting. Since the agenda for that meeting is quite full, there is a possibility that there will be time to nominate only one of the candidates. Resolutions for the nominations (with supporting documentation) should be sent to the office of the Dean of the College; the Dean will then provide the Board of Regents with the necessary information for action at their upcoming meeting.
3. **Special assignments:** Eric reminded the committee that three committee members serve as Faculty Life representatives to other campus committees: Xun Pomponio is on the Benefits Committee, Judy Stromayer is on the Environmental Concerns Committee, and Irina Walter is a member of the Mellby Lecture Series Committee. (With that in mind, Irina distributed program information for the evening's Mellby lecture by Andrea Een.)
4. **Review of Committee Structure and Assignments:** Eric reviewed the committee's structure, assignments, and schedule for the upcoming semester. The Issues and Action teams will switch membership for the second half of the year.
 - a. **The Issues Team** will consider:
 - i. Restructuring the parameters of Faculty Development grants as discussed during the first semester of 2008/09. We considered ways in which faculty opinion could be widely solicited – especially considering the fact that our decision does not need to be ratified by the full faculty.
 - ii. Faculty Life history issues, as delineated last semester.
 - iii. Mentoring possibilities for faculty, perhaps in conjunction with upcoming CILA programs or initiatives.
 - b. **The Action Team** will consider:
 - i: Summer grant applications.
 - ii.: Teaching and curricular development grant applications.
 - iii: NEH Summer Stipends.

The committee discussed the overall structure of meeting agendas for the remainder of the academic year. The committee decided that our regular meeting time during the second semester of 2009 would be 4-5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, with the possibility of extending the meeting time until 5:30 when necessary. The regular meeting time for 2009/10 will be Tuesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. We look forward to having a student member join our committee, and, while he/she would be welcome at any Issues Group meetings, attendance only at meetings of the full Faculty Life Committee would be expected.

Mellby Lecture Nominations: Eric Cole, as Chair of the Committee, will solicit nominations for next year's Mellby lectures. The full Faculty Life Committee will decide on the recipients.

Faculty salaries and compensation: Alan Norton reported that the Board of Regents would determine a comprehensive fee at its February meeting, but stated that any salary recommendations would not be put forth until at least May of 2009. April letters of reappointment, etc. will therefore not reflect salary increases; salary adjustments will need to wait until more firm enrollment data is in hand.

The committee adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

The Issues Subcommittee will meet on February 17, 2009, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Christensen