

## Faculty Life Committee – St. Olaf College

### Minutes for the meeting of 16 September 2008

Present:

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

The Meeting was convened at 3:35 p.m. in Dittman 204.

1. **Approval of minutes.** Minutes of the September 9 meeting were approved.
2. **Release-Time Grant Language.** It was decided that the language in italics below be struck from the Released Time Grants page of the St. Olaf website: “Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop *and/or consult with a faculty representative on the Faculty Development Committee as they prepare their application.*”
3. **Grant Workshops.** Mary Griep reported on her meeting with Patricia Martin regarding faculty grant-writing workshops. Both fall and spring workshops are being planned. Mary will check with Patricia to finalize fall dates. Patricia requested that Mary learn whether or not the committee is in favor of an additional annual grant-writing workshop for faculty members anticipating a sabbatical leave. Eric will add this inquiry to the list of issues for the committee to discuss.
4. **Benefits Committee.** Steve O’Neill joined the meeting to inform the group about the Benefits Committee and the responsibilities of the Faculty Life representative on that committee.
5. **Continuation of Discussion of Grant Language.** Eric Cole is making a list of specific language changes for the Faculty Development page of the St. Olaf website. Changes needed include updating the committee’s name and deadline dates, in addition to the language change noted above in item #2 of this report.  
Brian Borovsky added that the committee should look at combining the Summer Research grants with the Teaching/Curriculum grants and renaming it the Summer Activity Grant. Arnie Ostebee informed the group about two potential issues of contention for the committee to address:
  - 1) May faculty members on sabbatical apply for released time grants?
  - 2) What criteria should be used regarding the stipends for these grants?
6. **Honorary Degrees.** Kathryn Ananda-Owens joined the committee with a briefing on St. Olaf’s honorary grant process. She shared a history of the honorary degree program and detailed the duties of the honorary degree committee members. Kathryn notes that traditionally there is a call for honorary degree proposals twice a year, and that the date for the

first call is nearing. It was decided that FLC should begin preparing a call to the faculty for Honorary Degree nominations, so that they can be reviewed and presented at the December faculty meeting. This would allow dossiers to be forwarded to the Board of Regents meeting in February.

(Also noted: Kathryn Ananda-Owens left honorary degree archival materials with the committee at this meeting. Those items were taken directly to the president's office, where they will be stored.)

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

### Action Items

- 1) Mary Griep will continue to work with Government and Foundation Relations (GFR) to solidify the dates of upcoming grant workshops, and to clarify which office or committee will advertise those workshops.
- 2) Eric Cole will send a reminder to the faculty of the October 24 grant application deadline for fall grants.
- 3) The committee will look at criteria for the awarding of honorary degrees, and formulate a plan to publicize a call for honorary degree proposals at the September 23 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dona Werner Freeman