

Minutes of ARFAC Meeting

October 8, 1997

Present: Kathy Chadwick (chair), Wendy Allen, Gail Carlson, Bob Entenmann, Michelle Gierke, Barb Lundberg, and Anna Trefz.

Guest: Kathie Fishbeck.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kathy Chadwick at 2:30pm.

2. AGENDA:

- a. clarification of meeting time and committee membership;
- b. Buntrock update;
- c. (director of financial aid update;
- d. retention;
- e. PEP;
- f. diversity.

3. CLARIFICATION OF MEETING TIME and COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

Following extensive discussion of committee members' schedules and possible options for a meeting time, members agreed to establish the official meeting time as Wednesday, 3:30-5:00pm. John Saurer will fill in for Judith Yourman, who is unable to attend meetings this semester due to her teaching schedule at Carleton. Michelle Gierke (representing Student Senate) is unable to be present for meetings due to a scheduling conflict with Cantorei. Numerous suggestions were made for ensuring accurate and timely two-way communication between ARFAC and the Senate. Michelle will work out the details with Senate leaders.

4. BUNTROCK UPDATE.

- a. Committee members approved the three essay questions to be used in this year's competition.
 - i. As a part of its mission, St. Olaf College is committed to providing students an education which "incorporates a global perspective." What does an education with a global perspective mean to you?;
 - ii. (Albert Einstein said "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.
 - iii. Reading not only exercises but also challenges our minds. Select a book you have read in the last three years and discuss how it has challenged your mind and also influenced your values. All applicants must answer (i); students may chose either (ii) or (iii).

- (b) Barb Lundberg announced that beginning with this year's competition, Buntrock awards will be set as a percentage of tuition. Awards extend for a four-year period.
- (c) 33% of the current first-year class are recipients of Buntrock awards [51 regents scholars, 120 presidential scholars, 115 dean's scholars]. The intent is to move gradually to reduce that percentage to approximately one quarter of the incoming class.
- (d) Several committee members reported experiencing difficulty in identifying faculty to assist in the reading of Buntrock essays the last week of January/first week of February. It was suggested that they consult the list of Faculty Ambassadors.

5. DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID UPDATE.

The search for a Director of Financial Aid has been re-opened. Committee members reviewed and approved a tentative job description for the position. The announcement will appear in The Chronicle of Higher Education several times.

6. RETENTION.

Committee members asked Barb to gather data relative to students who decide to leave St. Olaf. What is their overall profile? How does their St. Olaf grade point average compare to that of students who remain? to that of their high school years?

7. PEP PROGRAM.

(a) Barb announced that Bob Carlson, Director of the PEP program, has resigned in order to accept a position at Carleton. He will be leaving in January. Bob's departure necessitates and provides an opportunity to re-examine the position of director of PEP. Should PEP remain where it is, or should it be moved back to the Administration proper? What should be the relationship between PEP and the Admissions Office? Should we identify PEP candidates from the general admissions pool, or should PEP have a separate structure (with its own recruitment, etc.)? Would it be appropriate to form a subcommittee of persons representing the Admissions Office, the Dean of Students Office, the Academic Support Center, PEP, and ARFAC, to sort through these and other issues relative to the long-term place and identity of PEP?

- a. In response to a question, Barb reported that six out of eighteen PEP students left last year. (N.B.: while the grant that funds the PEP program commits the College to working to increase the graduate rate of PEP students, it does not specify that the degree be earned at St. Olaf. Costs, location, and other factors influence PEP student's choice of post-secondary institution.)
- b. Committee members reiterated a point raised last year—that faculty do not know about the PEP program; that there are a number of false stereotypes circulating about the program. Should there be any attempt to rectify this situation? Should there, for example, be a PEP liaison in every department?
- c. It was pointed out that the College needs to keep more accurate records relative to the PEP program.

8. DIVERSITY.

In response to a question, Kathy Chadwick and Barb Lundberg clarified the role of ARFAC in terms of the issue of diversity: diversity IS NOT an explicit charge of ARFAC; our responsibilities lie in the areas of admissions, retention and financial aid. We will of course consider diversity as it relates to these areas of our charge; other groups on campus will monitor diversity as it relates to areas that fall under their responsibility.

9. The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Allen, secretary