

Faculty Development Minutes: 12/18/97

Present: Barbour, Grenberg, McMillan, Hanson, May, Pence

Business items:

1. The committee decided that applicants for the Ellingson Endowment. Grants may not apply while they are on sabbatical. This would be "double dipping," having two sources of support for one's work. (At present it does not state explicitly in the description of summer grants that one may not be on sabbatical when one applies, and in future years we should add this rule.) Hanson will communicate this decision to Eric Weitz, who had asked for clarification.
2. The committee discussed Ron Lee's recommendation that the Associate Dean of the Interdisciplinary Faculty administer the Leraas Lecture funds as well as the Leraas Occasional Lecture Fund. Though there was no vote, most members thought that the Faculty Development Committee should continue to administer the larger Lecture fund, and have hesitations about whether the Associate Dean should administer the Occasional Lecture funds. This issue needs still to be resolved.
3. We discussed the request of two faculty members for more feedback on their applications for semester release grants. The Dean does not have time to write letters, nor is he informed about the basis of decisions. In future years committee members must make much better use of evaluation sheets, which will be duplicated and sent to those applicants who request them. The Dean's Office will continue to provide secretarial service.
4. Grenberg will find out whether the funds for Ellingson grants must be expended by June 1, 1998. If so, we need to take care of the administrative details in time to beat this deadline.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a wide-ranging discussion of the relationship between the committee and the Dean, and of the report that the Dean wishes the committee to write this spring. Such a report would initiate a discussion among the faculty and help the college establish priorities for faculty development. It would state the aspirations of a faculty development program, identify strategies for getting there, and in relation to the coming capital campaign. There are several prospective donors who might be tapped to endow programs related to faculty development, but the Dean needs to be able to present them a well-articulated plan. The question of the future of the sabbatical program is also crucial because of the high cost of this program.

Barbour agreed to write a draft of a report during the month of January. This will be given to committee members before our next meeting for feedback and discussion. After that document has been revised we will set up opportunities for faculty to discuss it. This might take the form of discussions among each of the five faculties in March. Then the document will again be revised and given to the Dean by the end of the year.

Dates for future meetings:

- February 12: To discuss faculty development report

- March 12 or 13: To review applications for summer grants

Submitted by John Barbour, secretary of the day