

**Review and Planning Committee  
Minutes for Dec. 1, 1999**

Present: Baker, Becker, Cabe, Norton, Odell, Pence, Pristash, Rohn, Schuurman. Dan Hofrenning and David Van Wylene from the faculty senate workgroup also attended.

MINUTES for the Nov. 17th meeting were approved.

FACULTY MEETING AGENDAS: A committee member made a motion that RPC set faculty meeting agendas. This led to a discussion about the wisdom of doing this, who has responsibility for what, and the recent histories of both this idea and faculty meeting agendas. Dean Pence thought that it would be a worthy experiment for RPC to work on faculty meeting agendas this year, if, as he expected, the President concurred. The Dean stressed in this discussion that who is Chair of the Faculty and what that means is an important issue for the administration and the College rather than who chairs faculty meetings. We then discussed the logistics of RPC helping set the agendas starting with the February meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS: The chair handed committee members 2 memos with material for consideration at our next meeting.

GOVERNANCE REFORM: Committee members discussed the faculty senate workgroup report. Workgroup members said that they favored no single approach and saw themselves as providing information rather than a direction. Faculty in general had indicated unhappiness with the way things were working, the group noted, but have never made clear whether changes are desired. It is clear, workgroup members said, that St. Olaf faculty will want to retain faculty meetings under any system, but what powers and processes, if any, it might hand to a council or senate are unclear.

Questions were raised about what is the optimal size of a deliberative body (with 10 conventionally being seen as optimal rather than 19). A question was raised whether there are real gains to be had by going to a council or senate. The major reason given for establishing a council or senate in discussion were the notion of having a reliable faculty voice--a voice that can speak faculty perspectives to SALT, Dean's Council, Student Senate, the Regents and consider matters ('work on behalf of the faculty' more than 'speak for them') during the summer and in January when college business goes forward.

RPC then deliberated on how to proceed. It voted to release the workgroup report as the RPC December faculty meeting report on governance. Fora will be developed about governance with the February faculty meeting possibly being used in part to discuss this issue. An effort will be made to establish faculty consensus on governance by the end of this academic year.

MEETING WITH THE REGENTS. Our agenda with them and the logistics of this was discussed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Rohn