

**Review and Planning Committee
Minutes for April 29, 1998**

Present: Jim Hanson, Tammy Leja, Kris MacPherson, Alan Norton, Jim Pence (Dean of Faculty), Matthew Rohn, Charles E. Umbanhowar (Chair), David Van Wylene.

We approved with one correction the minutes for the April 22nd meeting. A suggestion was made that faculty be informed about the posting of minutes on the Web, including how to access this site.

The rest of the meeting we spent with the Dean discussing the faculty staff plan and the questions it has prompted about faculty governance. It was suggested that the Dean provide to the faculty a full accounting of cuts so that all could see how broad and deep the cuts have been. Governance issues seem more pressing to programs who believe that they suffered unfairly, but don't know how extensive cuts were in other areas. We had a wide-ranging discussion and exchange of views about governance issues but continuously anchored them in the reality of the plan as it has continued to develop since its release. We increasingly felt as a committee that abstract decisions about the governance issues under discussion served few good purposes. The Faculty Manual is open to interpretation about certain matters and past practices have varied enough that they provide no firm guidance on these critical concerns. We urged the Dean to continue developing his perspectives on these issues so that he could make sound policy and explain it well, but we believe that firm decisions about most of the issues and policy-making debates over them should center on actual decisions.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Rohn