

Review and Planning Committee Minutes, May 1, 2002

Meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Allen, Baker, Carlsen, Geffert, Hamlin, Norton, Odell, Postlethwaite (chair), Thomforde, Umbanhowar.

Minutes for April 24, 2002 approved.

OPENING BUSINESS

We agreed to hold an extra meeting at the end of the term to speak with the new Subcommittee on Faculty Salaries about its charge and future work.

SEARCH FOR NEW PROVOST & DEAN

The President confirmed with two finalists that they are willing to remain in the pool. He hopes to speak with the other finalists by the end of this week. The cabinet will meet with all of the finalists, as will the associate deans.

We spent a good amount of time discussing and revising a list of questions drafted by the President in preparation for RPC's meeting with the candidates. The topics include:

1. methods and processes the candidate would employ to bring "clarity and sharper focus" to the academic program;
2. the "purpose of faculty governance" and the candidate's thoughts on the role of department chairs, associate deans, and the Dean of the College in faculty governance.
3. the candidate's approach to balancing the needs and aspirations of a particular faculty against the needs of the College as a whole
4. the role of activities such as athletics, music, volunteer service organizations, etc. in the education of students
5. the candidate's views on diversity and plans to "enhance and strengthen" diversity on campus
6. the candidate's insights on "what it means" to be a member of the St. Olaf College faculty.

The questions in their final form will be distributed to each candidate prior to RPC's meeting with the candidate.

RPC'S RESPONSE TO THE GRECO REPORT

We tinkered with the final wording of our response. This response will be sent to all faculty in time for discussion at the May faculty meeting.

FINAL DRAFT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FACULTY MANUAL REGARDING SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Alan Norton ran a copy of the proposal past the College Attorney, who suggested some minor changes and clarifications. Many of the changes concern the sequence of events surrounding the creation of a new appointment (i.e., when a department chair consults with the Dean and when the Dean consults with the Tenure and Promotion Committee). The Attorney felt that we were not clear in specifying when a faculty member on a special appointment becomes eligible for leaves and other professional development opportunities. We agreed that such opportunities arise after 6 years (36 courses or course-equivalents).

Postlethwaite will send a copy of this document to Norton, who will pass it by the College Lawyer one last time. Postlewaite will then forward it to Linda Gregorson, who will distribute it to faculty in time for the May faculty meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryn Geffert, Secretary