

Review and Planning Committee, 1998-99

Paul Cabe, NSM
John T. Day, IGS, Sec.
James, Hanson, Humanities
Matt Rohn, FA, Chair
Charles Umbanhowar, Sr., SAS
Alison Feigh, SGA
Sarah Warren, At-large
Mark Edwards, President
Alan Norton, Treasurer
James Pence, Dean

Minutes – September 30, 1998

Present: Cabe, Day, Hanson, Rohn, Umbanhowar, Feigh, Warren, Norton, Pence.

Guests: James Tallon

1. Matt Rohn called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
2. HERI Faculty Survey. James Tallon, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, reported on the recent invitation for St. Olaf to participate in the HERI (Higher Education Research Institute) Faculty Survey. The HERI form has 39 standard questions and place for 20 additional local questions. It was agreed that RPC members will review the form, and the chair will solicit possible local questions next week.
3. Minutes. The minutes of the September 23, 1998, meeting were approved as distributed. The approved minutes will be forwarded to the Dean's office for posting on the following url:<<http://www.stolaf.edu/committees/rpc/>>.
4. The October 6, 1998, Faculty Meeting. The committee discussed several procedural aspects for the upcoming faculty meeting. While the chair of RPC presents motions on behalf of the committee, members were urged to be prepared to offer comments or elaboration in support of the chair's presentation. Similarly, guests to RPC meetings who have information in support of RPC proposals are urged to share it, as appropriate, during faculty discussion of RPC motions. The committee was reminded that the President sets the agenda for each meeting after an inclusive call for business put out by the Dean's office, which is responsible for the preparation of announcements in the Campus Memo and other materials. Several members expressed concern about scheduling conflicts with the use of Urness and with other campus events. This led in turn to a consideration of a larger question, left unanswered at this time: what is the business of the faculty, what kinds of issues properly need to come to the faculty's attention at their monthly meeting?
5. Voting Franchise. The committee returned to a request (discussed briefly last week) from Karen Wilson, chair of Communications and Theater, that an administrative member of her department, who has assigned teaching responsibilities, be recommended for faculty

voting franchise by RPC. According to the Faculty Manual (Section 3.I.A & B) only the President and Dean, and those with academic rank and a .5 FTE or larger teaching appointment are members of the faculty; other administrative personnel can be granted voting rights in faculty meetings. (Currently the following people with administrative appointments have faculty voting rights: Bruce Benson, Alan Norton, Mary Skorheim.)

Hanson moved and Umbanhowar seconded that RPC recommend to the dean that Gary Jung be granted voting rights in faculty meetings. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes, 6; No, 1; Abstention, 1.

6. Governance. RPC began its consideration of governance issues with a presentation from the dean about the particular governance structure at St. Olaf: the Board of Regents as the legal entity of the college and its internal organization and its relationship to the ELCA; the President as the chief administrator of the college with authority delegated by the Board; the authority delegated to others by the President; the clarity of student governance, through the SGA, which speaks for students; the lack of clarity in faculty governance, with the complementary roles of committees, charged with determining policy, and of administrators (dean, associate deans, chairs, directors, etc.) charged with carrying out policy. Some current governance bodies, like the Community Budgeting Group, for example, function as "college-wide" entities, but most bodies are less far-reaching in their responsibilities. As recent campus conversation indicates, many are unhappy with the current state of governance.
7. Announcements and Recommendations. The chair announced that John Day would serve as the liaison between RPC and the Assessment task force currently being formed. The chair recommended that RPC next turn to cleaning up minor issues in the Faculty Manual, so as to bring the Manual into alignment with current practice. The chair circulated a memo from Karen Wilson, chair of Communication and Theater, which will receive RPC's attention at the next meeting.
8. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John T. Day, Secretary
Approved October 7, 1998