Academic Council
Minutes of Meeting
January 15, 2014
CNS 200
3:15-4:15 PM

In attendance:

Faculty: Professors Joe Dennin, Don Greenberg, Shannon Harding, James He, Chris Huntley, Ginny Kelly, Alison Kris, Nikki Lee-Wingate, Irene Mulvey (AC Executive Secretary), Elizabeth Petrino, Shawn Rafalski (AC Chair), Susan Rakowitz (General Faculty Secretary), L. Kraig Steffen, Stephanie Storms, John Thiel, Jo Yarrington

Administrators: Senior VP Paul Fitzgerald, S.J., Deans Bruce Berdanier, Robbin Crabtree, Don Gibson

Regrets: Professor Martin Nguyen, Deans Lynn Babington, Faith-Anne Dohm

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Prof. Shawn Rafalski, at 3:17 PM. The agenda had been prepared by the Executive Committee and was distributed.

1. Approval of the agenda

   MOTION [Yarrington/Harding] to approve the agenda
   MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Select nominees for Strategic Plan Steering Committee

   The Council was reminded that the plan is for the Steering Committee to be composed of 5 Vice Presidents (EVP and SVPAA will co-chair), the 5 academic Deans, 7 faculty members, 2 students and 2 alumni. The President asked the Council to provide a list of nominees from which he would appoint the 7 faculty members.

   Faculty Secretary, Prof. Susan Rakowitz, organized the Council to deal with a few preliminary matters.

   A faculty member temporarily serving as an Associate Dean has been nominated. Typically, the Council does not consider administrators eligible for faculty slots on a committee. This individual is serving as Associate Dean until the end of the year; the Steering Committee is expected to take about 14 months to carry out its work.

   MOTION [Kelly/Fitzgerald] that the individual serving as Associate Dean remain on the ballot.
   MOTION PASSED 8 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions. (8-5-2)
Next, the Council took up the matter of how many nominees should be sent to the President; the President asked for more than 7 names. After a brief discussion, and in a spirit of compromise, the following motion was passed.

**MOTION [Thiel/Dennin] that the Council send 8 names to the President**

**MOTION PASSED** 14 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstaining (14-0-1)

**MOTION [Mulvey/Rakowitz] that the Council follow its standard procedure – that one must receive a majority of votes to be elected and that individuals with low support are removed from the following ballot.**

**MOTION PASSED unanimously (14-0-0)**

Ballots were distributed containing the names of the 18 nominees/volunteers. On the first ballot Professors Kubasik, Lakeland, Mulvey, Pearson, Preli, Rafalski, and Scheraga received a majority and were elected.

On a second ballot, with 6 names, no one received a majority. On a third ballot, with 2 names, Prof. Nikki Lee-Wingate received a majority and was elected. The Executive Secretary will send the names of the 8 nominees to the President.

3. **Discuss open faculty slot on GSEAP Dean Search Committee**

AC Executive Secretary, Prof. Irene Mulvey, explained that an individual on the GSEAP Dean Search Committee has asked to be replaced on the Search Committee to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest since she was related to one of the finalists. Senior VP Fitzgerald explained the time frame of the search going forward – that 6-7 finalists were having skype interviews at the end of next week; 3 would be brought to campus early next month.

The Council considered the question of whether or not to fill the vacancy.

**MOTION [Kelly/Fitzgerald] that the Council not replace the member stepping down from the Search Committee.**

Prof. Kelly: There would be a lot of catch up for someone joining so late in the process.

Prof. Dennin: The replacement would only need to look at 7 resumes.

Senior VP Fitzgerald: We are 4/5 of the way through the process and the committee has come together nicely.

Prof. Yarrington: Faculty have vetted the process all the way through; would not hurt to come in at this point.

Prof. Thiel: Who are the non-faculty members serving on the Search Committee?

Answer: SVPAA Fitzgerald, Mary Frances Malone, David Sapp, Christine Seigel, Bruce Berdanier, Hope Ogletree, Theresa Tillinger.

**MOTION FAILED** 2 in favor, 13 against, none abstaining (2-13-0)
MOTION [Mulvey/Second] that the AC elect a replacement for the open faculty slot on the GSEAP Dean Search Committee by having the Faculty Secretary issue a call for volunteers/nominations and then conduct the election by email. 

MOTION PASSED 14 in favor, 1 opposed, none abstaining (14-1-0)

The call for volunteers should make clear that volunteers must be available for skype interviews all day January 24 and 25.

4. Discuss open faculty slot on Senior VP for Academic Affairs Search Committee

Prof. Mulvey explained that with this Search Committee continuing into spring semester, a faculty member had asked to be replaced.

MOTION [Mulvey/Greenberg] that the AC elect a replacement for the open faculty slot on the SVPAA Search Committee by having the Faculty Secretary issue a call for volunteers/nominations and then conduct the election by email. 

MOTION PASSED 14 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstaining (14-0-1)

A MOTION to adjourn was made, seconded and PASSED without objection at 3:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Mulvey
AC Executive Secretary