

Elected Faculty Council

Minutes – Meeting of February 5, 2004, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Members Present: Chuck Whiteman (chair), Tim Lowe, Gary Russell, and Rick Tubbs; Jay Christensen-Szalanski (secretary for the day), John Spitzer

Also attending: Gary Fethke

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss faculty governance issues.

Role of DEOS.

We discussed the role of DEOs in evaluating college committee proposals. The EFC felt it important that DEOs were informed about proposals before they were announced to the faculty. We concluded that committees should make sure that they obtain input from the DEOs about their plans prior to voting. To facilitate this we felt that College committees would have to indicate that all DEOs have been asked their opinion about the proposal and include the DEOs' reactions before the EFC considered any committee proposals.

The DEOs should also be able to advise the Dean on recruiting issues and the EFC on matters that they want.

Response of EFC to Proposals

We agreed that the EFC should not have absolute authority to veto a proposal. The EFC does have the authority to call for a faculty vote, however, and the EFC can use that authority to effectively say "no" without needing full veto powers (see item 3, below). The EFC can treat proposals in 3 ways:

1. The EFC can call for a faculty vote on a proposal.
2. The EFC can agree that no faculty vote is needed, and that the proposal can proceed without a faculty vote.
3. The EFC can return the proposal to the originating body with a request for revision. In such cases, the EFC could communicate that unless the proposal was revised, the EFC would call for a faculty vote and would recommend that the faculty vote against the proposal.

Gary Fethke provided a brief update on the experience to-date of the Dean's Advisory Committee. The EFC agreed that no actions were required regarding the Dean's Advisory Committee at this time.

The committee agreed that proposals could come to the EFC from sources outside the other committees of the College. In particular, the Dean's Office could send proposals directly to the EFC.

Chuck Whiteman said he would distribute a revised draft governance document to the EFC members early next week.

The next meeting of the EFC is scheduled for 11:30 AM March 2