

# Minutes of the Faculty Meeting

## 27 September 2010

Dean Susan Ashley called the Meeting to order in Gaylord Hall at 3:32 p.m.

**I. Agenda and May 10 and May 13 minutes.** The Dean added to the present agenda a report from the Phi Beta Kappa chapter under heading IX. Minutes of the May 10 and 13, 2010 meetings were approved by unanimous voice vote, after corrections.

**II. and III. Dean's Report including Honor Council.** Dean Ashley welcomed the new tenure track faculty members, inviting them to stand and be recognized, and recalling the quip of Fred Sonderman: "I hope I die in the midst of a faculty meeting, for the change then may be barely perceptible." Her first announcement was an assurance that the new and improved Gates Common Room would reopen at 4:00 Monday, 4 Oct, with tasteful celebration.

At the Dean's invitation, Honor Council operatives addressed the meeting: Carol Neel, faculty adviser, introduced Council co-chairs Megan Helseth and Denali Johnson, who then spoke briefly highlighting features of the report they had circulated. They observed that the 26 cases heard in AY 2009-10 greatly exceeded the numbers in the previous two years, but that such statistics in HC history show much apparently random variation. That 8 of the cases were dismissed they ascribed largely to thin evidence, but those cases nonetheless had value as learning and calibration opportunities for the Council. Faculty were urged to contact either Denali or Megan with any questions, and all were invited to forums on October 12 or November 10 aimed at describing and exploring the Honor Code and effective applications of it in the classroom.

Susan returned to her presentation noting that the triennial report to the Higher Learning Commission would soon go out. The Deans intend that these mandatory assessments be conducted in an enhancing rather than distracting manner wherever possible. She thanked committees and departments for their steadfast effort on this project.

The several academic enhancement ideas that survived first deliberation at the Fall Faculty Forum continue to be mulled, and will come up this year for further discussion and development.

The Budget Committee after summer hiatus surveyed fiscal results for AY 2009-10, and found reason to expect some red ink at their next meeting 1 Oct. Budget development for AY 2011-12 through AY 2013-14 continues with attention to priorities and predictive tools used to balance revenue and expenses. Certain to be included will be explicit budgeting for debt retirement.

Information on grants, workshops, and other opportunities is regularly updated on the Prowl "Deans Office News" section, a helpful first reference for such things.

**IV. Report of the Chair, Faculty Executive Committee.** Esther Redmount, eschewing electronic amplification, spoke on two topics:

Presidential Search: The Trustees chose the search firm Storbeck/Pimentel and Associates, as reported on the CC website, and the Search Committee includes John Simons, Emily Chang, Sandi Wong, and Esther Redmount, along with 2 staff members, 9 trustees, and two Seniors. The faculty representatives will be glad to hear and discuss any nominations, suggestions, pet priorities, descriptions of an ideal leader, and so forth. Because a non-campus-visit search process is planned, it will be particularly crucial that every constituency make its ideas clearly known, Esther harangued: If the volume and intensity of campus interest is sufficiently large, there is at least a chance that top candidates might be induced to visit campus and meet the community before a decision is reached. (However, as Owen Cramer observed, high-ranking campus officers tend to be repelled by the prospect of a slow, uncertain, and exposing candidacy at another institution.)

Faculty Handbook: David Weddle spoke, giving assurance that the Governance Subcommittee continued to lean into the Rock of Sisyphus that we call the Handbook, and will soon add a few more topics to the ten (found on FEC Prowl) in need of discussion before more section drafts are ready. Special meetings were scheduled for October 6 and 13 aimed at editing or refining the new material to be brought to vote. David urged colleagues to visit the Prowl site, examine the materials under construction, and share comments.

**V. Report of the Committee on Instruction, Assoc. Dean Nelson-Cisneros presenting.**

Victor moved approval of a consent agenda proposing the modification and renaming of a Psychology course, and the dropping of one and adding of one History course. This was approved in a unanimous voice vote.

**VI. Report of the General Education Oversight Committee, Assoc. Dean Noblett presenting.**

Jeff announced that GEOC would soon publicize a report (mandated at the original approval of the new General Education requirements) assessing the extent to which students found truly elective blocks among those invested in General Education requirements and those for a major: GEOC and Institutional Research were to review five years of transcripts including one from the previous set of requirements and four under the new requirements and report to the faculty on how much room-in-the-middle was achieved. Also, the triennial faculty-mandated review of all courses receiving critical perspectives designation required attention this Fall. GEOC planned to contact department and program chairs for assistance in determining whether prevailing CP designations were still valid.

**VII. President's Report.** President Celeste remarked on his occasional involvement with Honor Council business, recalling that in every case he has found the Council's investigations thorough and fair, their counsel appropriate, and he has taken the

recommended action even to the expulsions of a faculty daughter and a Division I hockey player.

Dick reported on some recent grant highlights: \$250K reeled in by Jeff Livesay will support a Public Interest Fellowship Program. A Max Kade Foundation grant for \$85K will fund ADA upgrades to the German House. Eleven faculty research awards, 6 of them in Natural Sciences, had been won since Spring; the grant-fostering Scholars were celebrated on the web site.

Eighty faculty, staff, and students shared their thoughts with Trustees via the recent review of the President's Office and Senior Staff.

A major presentation by Susan Ashley and David Weddle to the recent Trustee meeting was particularly appreciated, and led to discussion of whether a comparable 3-hour "power briefing" could be taken out to certain alumni gatherings. Karen R. Pope '70 was elected the newest Alumni Trustee, and Isabel Warner '08 the new "recent graduate" member.

Dick described his Fall travels as focusing on Where We Are with Vision 2010, reporting to alumni and friends on progress toward that set of goals. In a Spring "Farewell Block", 22 days on the road, he planned to emphasize that "It's not about Dick, it's all been about CC." He mentioned the possibility of fitting a 20-minute version of his Vision 2010 report into the October meeting. President Celeste concluded his report with a few off-the-record observations on financial matters.

**VIII. Committee reports.** Nate Bower spoke for Health Professions Advisory, calling attention to the report displayed on the FEC Website within Prowl. Significant news there is that CC has shifted its HPA staffing cycle to match the new annual pattern in US medical schools rather than the College's schedule, for the sake of optimal acceptance success.

For the FYE Committee, Dennis McEnnerney handed out committee reports in hard copy, then highlighted some recent challenges for the program. Top among them was the always-possible spike in enrollments, which can suddenly require, as happened this Fall, 8 additional blocks of FYE offerings. Visitors are commonly the stopgap solution: This Fall 26% of the blocks are being taught by visitors, so that 20% of the new students have visitors for both FYE blocks, and 36% have at least one of the FYE blocks with a visitor. Dean Ashley remarked that the College learns late of such spikes, since matriculation "melt" defies prediction.

**IX. New Business** Tomi-Ann Roberts and Dennis McEnnerney addressed the meeting regarding new membership stipulations in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The CC Chapter deviates in detail from these latest guidelines and its members voted to move its procedures into line with reasonable dispatch. The two stipulations at issue are (1) In a second language, proficiency at intermediate level or better, and (2) In mathematics, at least one course at college level focused on abstract reasoning, not merely on

applications. Registrar Phil Apodaca helpfully determined that half of recent PBK inductees lacked any record of second-year language competence, and that lacking multitude was less than half natural science majors. The math stipulation is a puzzle, as the term “abstract reasoning” could be read to exclude many of the Department’s courses. (It definitely excludes the 100 level statistics courses, according to Marlow Anderson.) The Chapter will consider 2014 graduates for PBK on the basis of the new language stipulation, and if possible upon mathematics work as well.

Barbara Wilson of Human Resources then addressed the need for better participation in the two-question campus survey instrument designed to compile ethnicity data on staff and faculty. Federal regulations oblige all colleges to collect these data on students, faculty, and staff using newly defined ethnicity categories. Barbara described the process for self-reporting within the Go West system, and promised that those who required a more personalized approach would be accommodated.

**X. Announcements.** Barry Sarchett introduced Karen To, Director of Web and New Media, along with several IT colleagues, and described their interviewing and hiring of a firm to reimagine and reface the CC web presence. They retained White Whale, a group in the Bay area that limits its practice to academic institutions, and plans to have at least a beta version of the new site running by the end of the academic year.

Jane Hilberry announced that the Learning Commons will undergo an external review this year. The process badly needs faculty input, and the Committee (Jane, Amelia Taylor, and Larry Stimpert) will gratefully hear or read comments. Among key questions: Reactivate the directorship of Frosh and Soph advising? How much tutoring should take place within departments and how much in the Commons?

David Brown spoke to endorse active involvement the Committee on Undergraduate Research, of which the College now is an enhanced institutional member, entitling individual faculty to benefits of membership without further cost. He mentioned some of CUR’s educational and advocacy projects and promised that it takes only 5 minutes on-line for a faculty member to open an individual membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Lindeman  
Secretary of the Faculty