

Minutes of the LAS Faculty Meeting

April 21, 2009

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2009 were approved.

Report of the Dean

Dean McBride opened the meeting by addressing President White's letter of April 15th that was sent out to the University of Illinois community. President White's letter stated the estimated budget short fall for the State of Illinois for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 combined is about \$11 billion dollars. His call to reserve 2.5 % of physical operating budget along with Governor Quinn's purposed budget for fiscal year 2010 would, in fact, restore the 2.5% rescission and provide a 1.1 % increase to the University of Illinois general operating budget. The proposed capital budget will provide support for a modernization project in the College of Dentistry at 20.8 million dollars, and for construction of a national health center at UIC's College of Medicine Rockford at 14.8 million dollars. UIUC received a total of 183 million dollars for 5 projects on their campus in comparison to UIC's total of 35 million dollars. For state-wide public universities, the total number for capital budget improvements is \$662 million and community colleges receive \$158 million. Private universities receive \$100 million.

On April 20, 2009, Chancellor Allen-Meares wrote to the Deans that "effective immediately deans will have authority to make hiring freeze exceptions." The process for making hires can be much more streamlined and efficient. This is not a lifting of the hiring freeze. It is simply passing authority for hiring freeze exceptions to the Deans.

The Dean then reported on cost containment. It is still unknown as to how the Board of Trustees will respond to the request for tuition increases and tuition differentials. LAS has two such requests. One is to add psychology to the list of departments that received tuition differentials, and the second is to request all differentials be increased from \$500 to \$700. Campus reallocation and the nature of the reallocation is also uncertain.

All units from the College have submitted hiring proposals. The College is currently reviewing these requests and prioritizing them. The College would like to make the best use of its resources. To that end, the College will be looking at staff working across units. For example, in buildings such as in BSB and UH where multiple LAS units reside, the goal would be to create an administrative working environment through better use of and economies of scale of administrative staff. Units that are within close proximity to each other and their heads will be asked to work with the College to think about how work may be configured and flow differently. This process is already underway.

The College is also looking at IT support, particularly for smaller to midsized units where there is an unusually high cost to providing IT support. The College would also like to streamline the instructional budgeting process to make it more efficient, and give Departments maximum responsibility and flexibility with those budgets.

Report of the Executive Committee

The LAS Executive Committee had seven nominations for LAS Distinguished Professor Awards. The EC heard a report on the graduate progress review, which examined graduate program size, number of students, credit hours taken, and time of graduation. For the next academic year, the Executive Committee is considering meeting with the departments to hear from executive officers and executive committee members. The Executive Committee also discussed the benefit of the tuition return model and the impact of the recession. Discussions were also held on increasing grant activity in the social sciences and humanities, the impact of global campus on LAS and UIC, and vacancies in LAS Executive Committee and EPC.

Report of the Educational Policy Committee

A proposal for bundling of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Concentration in Violence Studies and the Establishment of MA in teaching of Spanish was approved. The bundling in its entirety was also approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Doran", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Peter Doran
Faculty Secretary