Executive Committee Minutes – 2/4/13

Present: Steven Hirsch, Richard Eichenberg, Karen Panetta, Thomas Downes, Jeanne Penvenne

Absent: James Ennis

1) Approved minutes from January 23rd meeting

2) Discussed the TEAM project and faculty concerns about that the selection of the participants in that project, about the lack of faculty consultation by Deloitte (the firm hired to assist with the project.)

3) Updates on ongoing items:
   • Committee elections – Committee on Committees (ComCom) is in the process of searching for elected committee candidates. ComCom is short-handed, Executive Committee will need to suggest names of candidates to ComCom
   • Committee on Faculty Work/Life – Received feedback from ComCom on proposed bylaws. Secretary of the Faculty asked whether University counsel needs to review bylaw changes
   • CSL decision on membership of religious organizations – administration would prefer that any conversation be tabled, EEOC will be discussing the CSL decision in light of the statement of Freedom of Expression, not clear that there is anything for us to do, will draft a response to TCU Senate

4) Debriefing on Lunch with Department Chairs and Program Directors
   • Does ExComm need to be involved in A&S faculty meetings?
   • How should AS&E faculty meetings be run? - Administration has taken over control of the meetings, should ExComm take a more active role?
   • Chairs expressed confusion about how the strategic planning process and the working groups are operating, indicated that it was hard to get information about the composition of and responsibilities of the various groups that have been created over the last two years
   • Many indicated there is a lack of transparency
   • Lack of consultation – Faculty have not been adequately involved in strategic planning process, in working groups
   • How can we improve the process going forward? - Need to make administration aware that speed is a problem, speed has been a barrier to getting adequate faculty involvement and consultation

5) Conversation with the Deans
   • Steve and Karen offered background on the motivation for the lunches and summarized the sense of the two lunches
   • Deans discussed their roles in staffing the working groups and the strategic planning groups
   • Dean Berger-Sweeney ran through example of the A&S capital planning process
– challenge of getting timely feedback, challenge of getting committees to meet

- Discussed the possibility of ExComm representation at chairs meetings
- Problem of AS&E v. A&S v. E – concerns raised, discussed issue of challenges created by absence of clear lines of responsibility
- Spent time discussing genesis of faculty concerns – speed of strategic planning process, confidentiality of process – creates barrier to get feedback, will need to be sure to get feedback from relevant committees once strategic planning document is released, faculty forum could be a complement to getting feedback from committees
- Dean Berger-Sweeney mentioned possibility of another faculty retreat, suggested ExComm brainstorm about ideas for topics for the retreat
- Had general discussion of how to best raise concerns with President and Provost