Executive Committee Minutes – 3/4/13

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

1) Approved minutes from February 21st meeting

2) Updates:
   - Election bylaw concern not an issue
   - Divestment from companies involved in oil and gas production – Growing issue, rally this afternoon, have communicated the committee's conversation to relevant faculty members, question of how we will proceed if the administration balks at putting item on the agenda, argument we will need to make – this issue is not going away, highlight analogy with South Africa divestment issue, note that our bylaws make clear that our committee controls the agenda
   - Work/Life balance proposal – Reviewed discussion at the faculty meeting, suggestion that revised bylaws be run by faculty members who raised concerns at last meeting, question of whether HR representative needs to be an ex officio member of the committee, consensus of committee was that needed changes can be made prior to next faculty meeting.

3) CSL decision on membership of religious organizations – TCU Senate has opposed end of all-comers principle, EEOC and CSL has a joint meeting, meeting was respectful, EEOC's concerns were allayed, in that joint meeting there was some discussion of purpose of student organizations, problem of conflicting exclusions, CSL dealt with the problem by crafting a narrow exception, CSL decision was that TCUJ had acted correctly, appears to us that CSL had changed TCU constitution to allow exception, change makes it possible for groups to request an exception for leadership only, such a request would be decided on by the chaplain, our committee agreed that it appears that CSL’s action is consistent with their bylaws, some question of whether CSL had overstepped its bounds by modifying TCU constitution, will raise this issue with university counsel

4) T&P Bylaw Changes – discussed nature of and motivation for proposed changes, we are happy with language as long as it does not impede T&P, will confirm that this is the case

5) Meeting with President and Provost – Chairs will meet with Provost before the faculty forum, meeting with both will happen after the forum, we also discussed creation of the Trunk web site

6) Preparation for meeting with the Deans – a) Timing conflict of A&S chairs' meeting and the forum, b) our input on agendas for A&S and for E faculty meetings – point out that lack of say on agendas reduces transparency, c) TII
7) Meeting with the Deans – a) faculty forum, timing of the A&S chairs meeting cannot be changed – last one of the year, had been on the calendar from the beginning of the year, we will discuss options; b) A&S agenda – Dean is open to getting feedback, is open to ExComm helping to set agenda and soliciting community for ideas, will need to discuss how we should proceed, Dean Berger-Sweeney made the point that, when opportunities for discussion arise, frequently don't get discussion; c) we reviewed what the forum will be, that led to discussion of evolution of strategic plan, what we will see released shortly more likely to be a “prelude” to the strategic plan; d) closed with a general discussion of the issues that may have led to faculty concerns