Executive Committee Minutes – 4/8/13

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

1) Meeting with the Deans – Began with an overview of upcoming events beginning with the forum, that led to a more general discussion of strategic planning, Dean Berger-Sweeney mentioned that A&S will start a strategic planning and implementation process once the strategic plan is released, group to lead this process – administrative steering committee, 6 faculty members, student representatives; discussed possibility of using the A&S retreat in May as an opportunity to provide feedback on the prelude,. Would be complementary to strategic planning committee at A&S level, Dean Abriola mentioned steps E has taken to begin strategic planning process, builds off of revised mission statement from about 1.5 years ago, at A&S level will be subcommittees of the strategic planning group working on specific initiatives, will need to be some thought given to how to discuss links and synergies between the schools, will need to be collaborative engagement and shared committees on certain topics (e.g., student life)

ExComm reacted positively to Dean Berger-Sweeney's suggested structure for the group and her plan to engage CommComm to populate the group

2) Deans and committee discussed suggested concerns for ExComm next year – Will be conversation concerning structure and budget model of AS&E, neither Dean is happy with current system, how can structure be improved without harming what is good about Tufts?, should structure be a discussion item at a future faculty meeting?

3) A&S items for future discussion – Will be a major discussion of the undergraduate curriculum and requirements, will also need to discuss facilities and co-curricular experience, what does it mean to be student centered?, this year there was some general discussion of capital planning and budgeting process – facilities will be major point of discussion next year

4) After Deans discussed meeting of committee chairs with the Provost – The Provost is concerned about not being able to come to the forum, does feel he was set up a bit, reviewed history of strategic planning at Tufts, noted fact that the administration is aware that mistakes have been made (e.g., TII), Provost Harris will try to use ExComm as a sounding board more in the future, closed with a general discussion of need for creating more opportunities for faculty to provide feedback on the plan