Executive Committee Minutes – 10/9/12

Present: Steven Hirsch, Jeanne Penvenne (arrived at 3:45), Richard Eichenberg, James Ennis, Thomas Downes, Karen Panetta

1) Approved minutes.

2) Tenure and Promotion Committee (T&P) issues
   - Handbook language – We are waiting for a response from Deke Mathieu on interpretation of the trustee policy.
   - Committee had a general discussion of governance issues related to T&P.

4) OEO appeal procedure – Letter was sent to OEO asking about dead link and about location/availability of information about appeals procedure. Response from Jill Zellner (OEO director) – dead link will be repaired. Will probably put procedure up on faculty portion of OEO web site. Information about procedure has been transmitted to the Grievance Committee.

5) Letter to chairs – Draft distributed and changes made in response to committee comments.

6) AAUP Salary Report – Committee has communicated with AAUP President, John MacDonald, regarding status of salary report. David Garman, chair of B&P, will be speaking with John regarding the report.

7) Athletic Committee – Athletic director and associate athletic director have suggested the committee should be disbanded. Committee felt strongly that faculty oversight is needed, if for no other reason than oversight is required by the NCAA. Also, role of the committee is not just to help generate financial support for athletics. Chair of the committee will be meeting with Dean Berger-Sweeney regarding committee's role.

8) Committee considered question of whether we need a more regular way for committees to report to the faculty. Should short committee reports be a regular feature of faculty meetings? Committee felt there was significant merit in this idea. Would give some committees more purpose. We will continue to discuss this issue.

9) Preparation for meeting with Provost:
   - What is role of faculty/faculty governance in strategic planning process?
   - Does faculty have a role in choosing representatives to ad hoc committees working on elements of strategic plan?
   - To what extent should existing committees be involved?

10) Meeting with Provost David Harris
    - Discussed nature of our relationship with previous provost.
    - Discussed operation of Faculty Advisory Board (FAB) in reviewing administrators and whether current FAB structure is appropriate.
− This is a general example of messy issues associated with division of A&S and E. May be worth some of committee's time discussing and addressing these issues
− In case of FAB, could an ad hoc subcommittee be created when needed? May be some wiggle room in the bylaws. Feeling of FAB is that there is a need to follow stated procedure, but discretion language in the bylaws may give the committee flexibility to follow procedure and still work with an ad hoc committee.
− Mapping of strategic planning process onto faculty governance
  − Working groups populated on the basis of recommendations of Deans and others in administration
  − Going forward, could Committee on Committees help provide input on membership? Faculty members might be more satisfied with process when they have this type of input.
  − Will be chance for standing committees to react once draft of plan is complete
− Discussed what is distinct about Tufts – Globalization and active citizenship clear. Undergrad involvement in research may not be as unique.
− Space crunch in buildings housing natural science departments partly driven by changing nature of the institution.

11) Discussed including EPC-led discussion of online evaluations on agenda for 10/31.