Executive Committee Minutes – 2/21/13

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

Absent: Karen Panetta

1) Approved minutes from February 4th meeting

2) Letter to Department Chairs and Program directors – Discussed concerns about the text of the letter, agreed that intent of letter was to report to a wider audience, also discussed draft of a letter from the committee to the President and Provost asking for a meeting, reviewed the text of that letter, added sentence to indicate that we will be soliciting feedback on the Strategic Plan from departments and programs, approved both letters.

3) Faculty Forum – What should it look like? Probably should have set pieces that are covered, plan will be for all of us to lead this meeting, start meeting with a synopsis of how we got to the forum, need to be sure to mention criticisms of the Executive Committee when we give that synopsis, things to cover – strategic plan, operation of committees, larger governance issues (e.g., faculty senate), discussed possibility of a companion web site, agreed we should set one up on Trunk so that we could get feedback from the faculty at large

4) TII – B&P concerns about TII's implications for budget and priorities discussed, discussed B&P's plan to contact President and Provost, needs to be another opportunity to discuss the TII, we will push to have that conversation in the March meeting

5) T&P Bylaw Changes – Bylaw changes would cover membership and confidentiality, Committee on Committees push back on membership limited, T&P will run language by us in the near future, we will suggest that they also run the language by the Committee on Committees

6) Bylaw issue regarding election procedure – Question had been raised in the previous agenda setting meeting, reviewed the language and were unable to find any language that needed to be changed.

7) Divestment from oil/gas companies – Members of the faculty had approached us about the possibility of putting this issue on the agenda for a faculty meeting, agreed that procedure should be for a group of the faculty to make a presentation rather than having the President discuss this issue, had a broader discussion of what the threshold is for including an item on the agenda, in this particular case the trustees have discussed a related student proposal, if the divestment issue is put on the agenda, need to invite investment officer, we agreed that the item should be added to list of items for future faculty meeting agendas
8) CSL decision on membership of religious organizations – Will let TCU Senate know that this is not an appropriate agenda item, will mention to EEOC that they could ask to have the item on the agenda.

9) Future discussions with the Deans – a) Lack of faculty input into content of faculty meetings of the individual schools, do we need to suggest possibility of a bylaw change so that ExComm has say in setting of agendas of the school’s meetings, b) TII – what do Deans feel are the implications for the individual schools?