Minutes – 11/26/12

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

Members absent: None

1) Approved minutes from October 22 and November 5.

2) Update on Tenure and Promotion (T&P) Committee items:
   a. Reviewed status of membership issues.
   b. Steve asked T&P to review their bylaws and get back to us with any necessary changes.

3) Athletics Committee – Meeting last week including Steve, Joanne Berger-Sweeney, and David Cochrane (committee chair) to discuss role of the committee. Joanne supported idea that committee should be more active. Joanne will see if outside consultant who is currently reviewing operations of the Athletic Department might be able to report to the committee. Joanne also proposed the idea of a dashboard – device for providing succinctly critical information about the operation of the Athletic Department. Committee will try and figure out what information should go in this dashboard. Meeting closed with Joanne discussing possibility of faculty committees reporting at faculty meetings and of need for there to be leaner/meaner committees.

4) EPC proposal for modified pass/fail deadline for freshmen – Jim indicated that the proposal is an outgrowth of general EPC discussion of timing of Pass/Fail deadlines. Committee agreed that the item should be included on the agenda of the next AS&E faculty meeting.

5) Chairs lunches – Thursday/Friday probably best. Need to draft an invite and ask chairs to pick between proposed dates. Invite should include questions for chairs to consider. Among the questions to ask are – 1) To what extent are AS&E faculty meetings working for you?, 2) How can faculty governance be improved to make your job easier? Ike offered to draft the letter. Possible dates: 1/31/13, 2/1/13.

6) Report on the Trustees Academic Affairs Committee (Jim)

7) Report on EPC (Jim) – Should issue of requirements be taken up by the committee? Is there a way to get a piece that is manageable? May ultimately be linkage between requirements and mission statement.
8) B&P – Should David Garman (current chair) speak to George Smith (former chair) to get better feel for why B&P was able to be more involved when Smith was chair?

9) Strategic planning – Ike mentioned that he had been added to the Administrative Support group. Will keep us posted.

10) How can we save money? – Ike will be talking with Dick Reynolds about faculty views, and he will push the role of B&P.

11) Next meeting – 12/10. Will discuss calendar for next semester. Steve distributed a couple of alternative meeting schedules.

12) Discussion with Phil Starks (Chair of Student Life Committee) and Bruce Reitman regarding Student Life Committee proposal to modify bylaws to permit committee involvement in fraternity/sorority governance

   a. Phil reviewed history of faculty governance over fraternities and sororities.
   b. Reviewed current status of fraternity/sorority behavior.
   c. Phil indicated that he has spoken with both Sol Gittleman and Stephen Bailey about the history of faculty governance and about the committee’s proposal.
   d. Bruce discussed limitations on his office’s ability to discipline fraternities and sororities because of the existing absence of an appeal body.
   e. Based on information from other NESCAC schools, not likely that elimination of fraternities and sororities would affect the extent of alcohol abuse on campus.
   f. Discussed question of whether more nuanced statistics would give better picture of the academic success of members.
   g. Plan for Student Life Committee’s proposal to be on the agenda of the 2/6/13 A&S&E faculty meeting.