Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Nov. 4, 2013

Present: Karen Panetta, Richard Eichenberg (co-chairs), Judith Haber, Colin Orians, Fulton Gonzales, Christiane Romero

1. Committee on Student Life Co-Chairs Alva Couch and student Haydn Forrest presented the committee’s request to bring a bylaw change for the charge of CSL. CSL had unanimously approved it.

According to best practices for sexual misconduct cases as agreed by the rest of the university -- the Office of Equal Opportunity -- and not the CSL -- shall hear appeals in cases of sexual misconduct.

CSL also wants to include the chaplain and a yet to be named Dean under Bruce Reitman on the roster, as well as reflect Bruce Reitman's new title on the roster of ex-officio members of CSL. (this does not require a faculty vote).

EC discussed what to do with pending cases before CSL, Prof. Panetta said she would check with the appropriate people, if these cases could be referred to OEO before the faculty vote.

2. The Committee discussed how to proceed with a vote on the Strategic Plan, a new version of which was presented to and approved by the Trustees at their most recent meeting.

It was decided to send this final version to the faculty, calling to their attention that it was a substantially revised version and that on November 18 they would be asked to vote on line whether they wished to vote on voting to endorse this final version or not. The "vote on voting" would stay open for three days. It would include the choices and instructions agreed to by the EC in a previous meeting.

3. The Committee approved the minutes from previous meetings.

4. Members of the Committee reported on their liaison duties to Faculty and Trustee Committees:

Prof. Gonzales on Budget and Priorities: It just lost its chair, Prof. Garman, and is now chaired by Prof. Saigal. The committee is "in crisis" because it has very little discretion. Problems are long-standing. The Committee decided to invite the new Chair of Budget and Priorities. Prof. Eichenberg also suggested getting in touch with Committee on Committees to assure that people put up for election to B&P are aware of the issues and willing to deal with them.

Prof. Haber reported on her attendance at the last Academic Affairs Committee meeting of the Trustees. Their discussions ranged from the Graduate School, to issues at Fletcher, to the Trustees' say on tenure and promotion.

Prof. Eichenberg reported on the Trustees' Committee on Administration and Finance. It approved the Capital expenditure plan until 2017 and received a report on the University's overall budget: so far A&S&E are over budget, but other Schools (Medical School) run a deficit. The recently purchased software (e.g. Isis) and yet to be purchased software are very costly.

Prof. Panetta reported on the Trustees' Committee on Advancement. Members of EC suggested that the President make a report on fundraising to the faculty, as previous presidents have done.