Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting 10/7

Members present: Richard Eichenberg, Fulton Gonzalez, Judith Haber, Colin Orians, Karen Panetta, Christiane Romero

- Discussion on the vote on the vote about the Strategic Plan. It was decided that such a vote should be conducted electronically after the final draft has come out: it would begin 48 hours afterwards, and faculty would be given three days (NOT business days) to vote. There would be three options in the vote: yes, no, and undecided; whichever option has a plurality of the votes would win (an “undecided” victory would equal “no”). The exact wording would be worked out by the Committee (and advisors) over email, and the faculty would be notified in advance that this is happening.

- Questions about the faculty’s inability to review Dean John Barker’s performance, since he is not faculty. It was felt that Joanne should be asked why such an appointment was made. George Norman is consulting with the Deans, and we will hear back from him.

- The question regarding credit for online courses is back with the EPC/Curriculum Committee. We will hear from them.

- Discussion with Joanne about a group to consider classroom space. She has found some volunteers, including 2 graduate students.

- Discussion with Joanne about the possibility of and the rules for MOOC (online) courses. These would allow for cross-school collaborations. A major company is interested in developing such courses for the MA programs in several departments (Economics and UEP). This would have to be discussed in the Policy and Programs Committee, as well as by the EPC and the Curriculum Committee, but it was felt that it should also be considered by faculty as a whole. There was a working group, headed by Boris Hasselblatt, that studied online learning and produced a very long report; it was decided that this report, along with an executive summary, should be shared with the faculty.