College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee Minutes
February 4, 2013

Present: Cynthia Bannon, Sara Friedman, Micheal Berger (Chair), Diane Reilly, Robert Terrill, John Hanson, Joan Linton, Eileen Julien, and Ed Hirt.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

The following College faculty have agreed to serve on the Course Transfer Appeals Board.

1. Arts & Humanities – Eric MacPhail (FRIT)
2. Social & Historical Sciences – Arlington Williams (ECON)
3. Natural & Mathematical Sciences – Chris Connell (MATH)

Bloomington Faculty Council President Carolyn Calloway-Thomas joined the meeting to discuss how better to involve faculty in decision-making processes and to enhance collaboration between the CPC and the BFC. One concern is that faculty often don't express views until after decisions have been made instead of participating in the process itself. The committee suggested that the BFC could alert the CPC to proposed BFC business and enable the CPC to spread the word about important issues up for discussion. The committee also raised larger concerns about how to promote faculty engagement given what some perceive as administrative disregard for faculty governance.

President Calloway-Thomas left the meeting at 4:30.

The Committee discussed FTE transfer requests into the new department of International Studies, but the committee is still awaiting further documentation before it can evaluate the requests.

Dean Singell joined the meeting at 4:40.

The Committee discussed with the Dean feedback it has received about doing away with the face-to-face budget meetings with department chairs. The Dean emphasized that the face-to-face meeting should be independent of the budget process and he is equally interested in cultivating opportunities for discussions with whole departments. He also emphasized that chairs have the opportunity year-round to meet with him or the associate deans, and he acknowledged the value of those meetings. The Dean has solicited information from other CIC institutions about their budget procedures, and he is willing to consider modifying the budget-construction procedures in the future. He acknowledged that this new process represents an administrative change in College culture, but he encouraged department chairs to meet with associate deans so that the ADs can bring issues directly to their regular meetings with him.

The Committee communicated that some faculty view the change in budget meetings as part of a broader transition to online communication and the reduction of decision-making to numerical assessments. The Dean responded that the budget process is fundamentally numerical and he acknowledged the trend in universities toward numerical metrics. But he also agreed that some departments might be uncomfortable with this shift and would prefer a face-to-face meeting. He emphasized that the budget documents will include space for a 3-page departmental vision narrative as well as space for a narrative description for each specific budget request that includes lines and cash
outlays. The form will standardize requests across departments and provide space restrictions to encourage succinct statement of the request rationale.

The Committee asked whether departments will know what metrics will be used to evaluate their requests. The Dean replied that he will make available to departments the data the deans will be using to make their decisions. The deans will be relying on more sophisticated data based on both internal data and comparative data from the AAU (the university has purchased databases that provide this information). These specific data points were used in previous evaluations of budget requests, but now they will be made available to department chairs to increase transparency.

The Dean left the meeting at 5:15.

The Committee continued discussing what its role will be in this new budget process. One proposal was for CPC members to review the department budget proposals and the Dean's budget decisions and explanations. In addition to requesting this access, the Committee discussed surveying department chairs to obtain feedback on their experience of the online budget request process.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.
Sara Friedman, Recorder