

Senior Staff Meeting
March 21, 2011
Meeting Notes

Attending: John Carmichael, Art Costantino, Julie Garver, Susan Harris, Lee Hoemann, Steve Hunter,
John Hurley, Nancy Murray, Les Purce, Ken Tabbutt, Steve Trotter
Absent: Laurel Uznanski

Review of Minutes

The March 14, 2011 minutes were approved with three changes.

Additions to the Agenda

Follow-up on summer tuition financial aid packaging was added to the agenda. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Les P. and Steve H. meet at another time to talk further.

Decisions and Actions

- Les P. and Steve H. to meet regarding the summer tuition financial aid packaging (Les P., Steve H.)

Announcements

- Laurel U. will be out for some time as her husband has had a medical emergency. The latest update indicated he is out of the ICU. John H. and Sharon S. will cover Laurel's duties as needed.
- Les P. submitted an op-ed piece to the Seattle Times. The piece, which had a 2009 graduate as the center piece, was emailed to the Seattle Times for consideration today.

Mission Statement

A copy of the proposed mission statement, dated 3/16/11, was distributed for review. A small group, along with Student Trustee Nathan Brockett, met last week to work on the statement. It will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a special Board of Trustees meeting yet to be scheduled.

Campus Climate

John Carmichael described reports regarding an off-campus event. Israel Consul Akiva Tor met with Hillel members at local restaurant. The college has heard reports that anti-Israel protestors were at the event and that police were called. There are also reports that some of the protestors joined the meeting and had a civil discussion. It's not clear from the reports that this was a college-sponsored event. More fact-finding is needed.

The group reviewed recent discussions about campus climate for Jewish students. Hiring for a visitor to team teach a Jewish Studies program next year is underway. Nancy Murray shared an e-mail from a concerned faculty member who reported on Jewish students choosing to leave the college. Ken Tabbutt said that the Agenda Committee had discussed sponsoring a forum or panel discussion on Israel-Palestine issues.

Decisions and Actions

- Art C. to follow-up on the Akiva Tor event and the report of students choosing to leave Evergreen due to campus climate (Art C.).
- Ken T. to follow up with Joe Tougas regarding panel discussion sponsored by the Agenda Committee (Ken T.).
- Todd S. to distribute information on difficult dialogs (Todd S.).

Naming and Memorials

Ken Tabbutt said that a group of faculty members have been working on a memorial for Rachel Corrie for several years. Since they began their work, the college has adopted a memorials policy. The policy specifically rules out artwork as a memorial, which affects the Rachel Corrie proposal. Les Purce said that the college should handle memorials uniformly so that each life is valued equally. Other considerations made when writing the policy included logistical issues, quality of effort, maintenance issues, funding, and demands upon the arts committee. Ken T. responded (via email) to the Rachel Corrie proposal describing the current policy. He has not received a response.

State Revenue Forecast/Legislative Update

Two documents, including a handout from the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council and an in-house document on the in state budget shortfall, were distributed by Steve T. Current estimates suggest that the college will experience a reduction between 115% and 130% of the governor's proposed reduction. The House is expected to release their budget sometime next week. Another supplemental budget is also likely. Julie G. will attend a meeting with House caucus and budget staff today and may learn more about the House plans. Both the public hearing and the executive session on the capital budget have been canceled next week.