

Faculty Meeting Minutes –September 22, 2010

SEM II D1105, 1:00-3:00pm

The **meeting opened** in vocal harmony at 1:15 p.m. by Joe Tougas and Drew Buchman.

Announcements followed:

1. A few unclaimed items were left at the Academic Retreat, they are at the front of the room. If they are not claimed, they will be turned into Lost and Found at Police Services on October 15.
2. The Agenda Committee has made it a priority to make space on the agenda at the beginning of each Faculty Meeting for student voice and announcements from the Geoduck Student Union.
3. The Agenda Committee encourages all faculty to update their photos to be posted on the Faculty Directory as one way to get to know each other. Several photos were taken at the Academic Retreat.
4. Andrew Buchman passed around a card for previous provost Don Bantz's presidential investiture at Alaska Pacific University on September 25. Ken Tabbutt will be attending on the College's behalf.
5. A program coordinator's meeting will be held immediately following the faculty meeting.
6. Currently there is one FAP position open. Nominations are currently being solicited. The faculty will vote on the new member next meeting.
7. Call for student announcements (none)
8. Rob Knapp indicated the Sustainability and Justice group will have informal, no-agenda meetings from 4-6 on Fridays in October off campus.
9. High school business instructors from all over Washington State will meet on campus on Friday and Saturday, October 8 & 9. Please welcome them.
10. The Washington Section of American Association of Physics Teachers will be on campus Oct 6-8. Please help them feel welcome. Krishna Chowdary was applauded for his work on organizing this meeting.
11. Rebecca Sunderman indicated the Linus Pauling Medal (chemistry) will be awarded on Saturday, November 6 at Evergreen. She indicated this is a huge honor for the College and that members of the Pauling family will be here. Rebecca and Dharshi Bopegedera were thanked for their work.

New Faculty Introductions:

Nancy Murray introduced this year's new faculty:

Regular Faculty on Term Contract:

- Abir Biswas - Geology
- Sunshine Sara Campbell - Math
- John Gates – MPA Tribal
- Andy Gilbert – Science/MIT
- Naima Lowe – Experimental Media

- Dave Muehleisen – Sustainable Agriculture
- Trevor Speller – British Literature
- Doreen Swetkis – MPA
- Anthony Tindill – Sustainable Design

Visiting Faculty

- Stokely Towels – Library Faculty
- Carolyn Prouty - Biology
- Jeff Gordon – Math and Physics
- Joanna Cashman – Mind-Body Medicine
- Francine Swift – Reservation Based Studies
- Erin Ceragioli – Tacoma Campus, Writing
- Shoji Kamise – Japanese-Hyogo exchange
- Melissa Barker – Environmental Studies/Agriculture
- Evan Blackwell – Visual Arts

MPA/MES Adjuncts:

- Allen Hardcastle - MES
- Kathleen Saul - MES
- John Fortugno - MPA
- Michael Hoover - MPA
- Stephen Buxbaum – MPA
- Leslie Hatfield – MPA (in Spring)

Allen Olson introduced new/nearly new EWS visiting/term faculty:

- John Baldridge – Social Science (1/2 time regular faculty)
- Scott Saunders - Spanish
- Olivier Soustelle - French
- Jennifer Calkins - Biology
- Joli Sandoz – Reference Librarian
- Kathy Kelly – Grays Harbor College

Long-time EWS Faculty who have left the college:

- Mike Moran
- Marge Mohoric
- Allen Mauney

Ken Tabbutt introduced new Academics Staff:

Miranda Elliott Rader – Assistant Director of QuaSR
 Sina Hill – Science Instructional Technician
 Don Jensen – Woodshop/Metalshop Supervisor
 Gail Wootan – Assistant Director of MES
 Stephen Bramwell – switched to Organic Farm Manager

John Hurley and Holly Colbert introduced new Finance and Administration staff;

Patte King – Public Records Officer

Steve Hunter and Art Costantino introduced new Student Affairs staff:

Brian Gould – Director of Admissions

Arvin Mosely - Men's' Head Basketball Coach/Marketing and
Promotions Coordinator

Sarah Works - Recreation and Athletics Director

Les Purce, on behalf of Lee Hoemann, introduced new Advancement staff:

Amanda Walker – Director of Development

Joe Tougas Introduced this year's Agenda Committee members:

Nancy Anderson, Maria Bastaki, Drew Buchman, Dylan Fischer, Karen Gaul, Carrie Margolin, Andrew Reese (Chair Elect) and Steve Scheuerell

Rules of Order – Roberts Rules of Order will be used this year. Joe went on to read the procedures for voting on items brought forth to the faculty.

President Les Purce – Les began by welcoming everyone. He thanked the 85 faculty who came to the reception at his house. He went on to report the student FTE for the year is up and thanked faculty and staff for their work. There are 4750 FTE for fall and an expected average of 4500 FTE for the year (we are funded by the State for 4200 FTE). He stated there will be challenges over the next few years and he's proud that so many students want to attend Evergreen. He indicated this is a great showing of public support. He also acknowledged the extra work involved in accommodating these students and stressed that the alumni that will go out will be the best salespeople for the College.

Les went on to discuss the campus construction projects and indicated the reason there are projects still underway is because of efforts to utilize all of the current money available with the understanding that we cannot count on more in the near future. The board approved the COM building, but Les indicated it may be difficult in this climate to get additional funding. The Sustainability Lab is underway and will be completed before the end of this year. Anything that is currently in progress is under the wire, there may be a significant decrease in the availability of capital funds over the next decade.

Les then provided an update on the state operating budget. We have already eliminated 62 positions at the institution. We have been instructed to cut an additional \$1.2 million dollars by October 1. Les indicated that College will use some one-time dollars so some cuts will not take effect immediately. In addition, he indicated that the College is exploring early retirement options, which have some major restrictions. Another option being reviewed is to re-base Evergreen's budget to account for higher out-of-state enrollment. In the recent past, (1989), the State contributed 75% funding towards students' education, where currently it is only 43%. Increasingly, parents and students have to pay more of the burden and the college has had to rely on higher levels of private fundraising and giving. Another concern is the State Need Grant. As a public college, we have been reliant on this grant in a significant way to support broad student access

(diversity) to the college. The funding, paid for last year by a new bottle tax, is in jeopardy given the repeal of this tax is currently on the ballot.

In looking forward to the next biennium, Les indicated the College is currently being mandated to prepare a further 10% (\$2.2 million dollars) cut proposal for 2012-13. The proposal will likely go through major revisions as more information becomes available during the legislative session. Les indicated that he serves on the Higher Ed Task Force as the Chair and that the Governor also sits on this group. In response to requests to explore the financial floor is for higher education, the Task Force has argued that the floor is what we currently have in our budget. The task force is also lobbying for continuation of the state need grant. Les indicated that he and Julie Garver are meeting with key decision-makers to make a case for the needs of Evergreen and higher education more generally. This includes a public candidate forum on October 13th that Evergreen is hosting.

Les talked about Evergreen's 40th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2012. He indicated he is working with Advancement to launch fundraising initiatives concurrent with the anniversary. He called on the faculty to support initiatives to encourage friends who could be future donors.

In closing, Les suggested that there is work to do on the campus climate. He indicated that this year there have already been two instances where individuals took the microphone away from speakers and/or presenters without invitation, which took away the right of the planners to have the type of conversation they had planned. He suggested that the need to address this is not about disallowing the voice, but about respect.

Provost Report – Ken Tabbutt provided his sense of the priorities for the Academic division this year, including RTaLE, the budget, Accreditation, the Provost search, the Library Dean search and union negotiations. He provided additional information including:

- Library Dean – will be a faculty position. The faculty hiring office is currently putting together a sub-committee. A DTF will also be composed.
- Budget – He suggested that the current budget climate will not ease up soon, with continued revenue shortfalls that will negatively impact Evergreen's budget. He indicated there are several important issues are on the November ballot, including initiatives and elections. To the new faculty, he suggested that this conversation would likely take place regardless of the institution and is indicative of a public divestment in higher education in this budget climate. Ken provided a history of the recent process. He reiterated the three strands of funding which are changing – the general fund is decreasing, student tuition is increasing, there is an increased student reliance on financial aid. Ken praised the Faculty Advisory Panel on the College Budget (FAP) for their work to shape the College's guiding principles: core mission; diversity; equity; and reversibility. While many staff positions have been lost (primarily through vacancies), he indicated not there has not been a corresponding decrease in workload with the major impacts falling on the staff who remain. Ken went on to talk about the impacts on the Summer School budget, Academics' only

revenue generator, which has now absorbed student employment costs which were cut from the state operating budget. This impacts Academics' ability to fund special projects, computers, CCAM, etc. Ken indicated that the additional cut for this biennium did not provide time for campus consultation and that there will be time built in for consultation for the 11-13 budget process. Ken indicated he will consult with the FAP, UFE, Agenda Committee and Budgeteers. He reminded the faculty that the Board of Trustees gives the final approval for the proposed budget. Ken went on to discuss the high tuition/high financial aid model that, while not our choice, is what we've been handed from the State leading us further toward a privatization model. Ken then went on to discuss the staff reductions, which have taken away flexibility without much decrease in workload, decreased services to students and faculty, and will likely continue to increase. He indicated that, as support continues to decrease, direct instruction is likely to be affected. Ken urged faculty to partner with the college, students, unions and boards to provide a more collective voice for higher education on the State level. He indicated that Evergreen is partnering with the other baccalaureates to take advantage of the power of a collective voice, coordinated by the Council of Presidents. Ken then opened the floor for questions/comments:

- Concern was raised regarding Ken's comments about impacts to direct instruction, with a suggestion that another group with students involved be appointed to the budget process.
 - Ken will consider/think about the suggestion but doesn't tend to like too many small groups doing parallel work.
- A question was raised regarding where the public service centers fall in this cut?
 - Ken responded that no further cuts are planned for the current biennium, but is less clear about the next biennium. He asked the faculty to consider whether the same priorities should be used in shaping the 11-13 budget as were used in the current biennium.
- A request was made for more transparency in the plans for additional cuts for this biennium.
 - Ken indicated there is not yet a proposal to share. He indicated that some of the decisions will depend on whether we can depend on 23% out-of-state enrollment. He also suggested that there are several positive factors at play: the College is overenrolled; has significant national recognition; a great new cohort of faculty (with large thanks to the faculty); and Capital projects completed or underway that improve and increase teaching space.

Agenda Committee Priorities

Joe indicated that the Agenda Committee priorities discussion will be deferred until the next faculty meeting. He suggested the Agenda Committee is committed to keeping opportunities and focus on faculty teaching and learning.

Capital Projects Process – Sarah Pedersen indicated that this agenda item comes from some concerns raised about current projects underway that were begun over the summer, as well as a likely increase in concerns that will be raised regarding bio-gasification. The Agenda Committee wanted faculty to be as informed as possible.

Ken was asked to speak about the **bio-gasification** proposed facility and process and where it is now. He clarified that the college is currently engaged in a feasibility study and that no decisions have been made. He then went on to discuss the history of the current initiative:

- In 2005 the students voted for a clean energy fee
- Les signed, on behalf of the College, the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007 which included a move toward climate neutrality. 2007 the Strategic Plan was updated to include sustainability and a commitment to become carbon neutral by the year 2020.
- In 2008 sustainability was incorporated into the Campus Master Plan.
- In 2009, the climate action plan was researched, planned, developed and written in an MES program. The partial product of the MES work is the Climate Action Plan, which included work with the Sustainability Council and Sustainability Coordinator. Two options were proposed: the College could either 1) purchase carbon offsets or 2) actively reduce our carbon emissions using a wide range of strategies (e.g., consistent with the mission of the College; demonstrate fiscal efficiencies; be fairly easy to implement, etc.). Ken indicated that A recommendation to consider researching a biomass generator was included in the final proposals
- Last year \$125,000 was provided by the Legislature, \$125,000 from Puget Sound Energy for energy conservation and \$125,000 from the student clean energy fee to perform a feasibility study. Since last spring, the Council has been deliberating on all of the relevant considerations for the feasibility study.
- In the summer of 2010, the group gathered to consider what else is needed to complete a capital plan.

Ken again stressed the College has not yet committed to this project but a capital request needs to be in place in case it is clear from the feasibility study that the work should go forward. He asked faculty to provide all of the tough questions they can think of for consideration and to get involved, particularly if they have expertise in a relevant area. He stressed the need for involvement during the feasibility process vs. after. Discussion ensued:

- The request was made to be transparent about the process as a democracy issue (Ken responded that he would like to see students and faculty involved in both asking and answering questions).
- Request was made for guidelines regarding the working conditions for those working with the products that would be used.
- Request was made that people be directed to the website to first educate themselves before inserting themselves into the conversation.

There will be an open public bio-gasification forum tomorrow from 1-3pm, in SEM II A1105.

Capital Projects Update -- Paul Smith followed with an update on current capital projects (additional detail can be found on a Campus Capital Projects handout), including:

- CAB Renovation - \$20 million dollar project funded by students (15) and state (5).
- Art Annex renovation – significant improvement in lighting and more.

- Sustainable Agriculture Lab – including a path and waterline to the Organic Farm
- COM building design development – budget constrained.

Projects that will have funding requests submitted for 2011-13 biennium include:

- COM building renovation
- Lab I 2nd floor renovation
- Lecture Hall Renovation design
- Biomass Energy System design & construction
- Tacoma Campus Acquisition
- Minor works including Organic Farm (3 buildings) renovation and small projects on campus.

Paul indicated that there is a “What’s New” section on the facilities website.

<http://www.evergreen.edu/facilities/whatsnew/home.htm>

Joe reminded faculty that the program coordinator meeting follows this meeting in this room. He closed by saying one of the tasks this year is to provide opportunities for good communication between faculty and staff. Paul’s report is a first step, there’s more to come.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm