

Faculty Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 29, 2008

**Present:** Julio de Paula, Dean of the College; Jane Hunter, Associate Dean; Cliff Bekar, Associate Professor of Economics; Ken Clifton, Associate Professor of Biology; Dinah Dodds, Professor of German; Deborah Heath, Associate Professor of Anthropology; and Terri Banasek, Executive Assistant and recorder.

**Excused:** Mervyn Brockett, Assistant to the President

**Announcements:**

- Associate Dean Hunter announced that she has received one proposal for a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow. She will send an email reminder to chairs extending the deadline to Wednesday, March 5.

**Agenda Items:**

1. The minutes of February 1 and 7, 2008, were approved.
2. Dean de Paula presented a brief follow-up to Carl Vance's e-mail to the community. Ultimately, the College would like to move away from that type of debt, but right now it is difficult to make that transition. The situation is still very fluid, and thus the board did not approve the budget (except for tuition, room, and board). The rest of the budget is being left subject to change if necessary due to the volatility of the market. Any changes will not be one-year changes. As we allow this situation to stabilize, the most prudent way to proceed is to bear in mind that we can prioritize but cannot approve anything budgetarily until we know the budget picture for the next few years. Faculty Council will need to prioritize within as well as between categories. Dean de Paula and Mr. Vance will meet with the Budget Advisory Committee on March 4, and President Hochstetler will address the issue at the faculty meeting on March 5.
3. Associate Dean Hunter distributed a draft proposal for a process for moving forward on collaborative teaching. She and Dean de Paula will come up with an annual budget which will be allocated according to a priority list from Faculty Council based on the number of proposals received each year. If it is a particularly expensive model, there would be a higher burden on that course to be exceptional. A deadline date for applications will need to be determined; it would need to be early in the course proposal approval process – February for the following fall. It was agreed that Faculty Council will consider only those proposal that are cost neutral at this time.
4. Faculty Council continued its discussion of the policy on course release. Dean de Paula noted that, given the current budget situation, the College can't do anything more than what we are doing right now. For chairs, the policy will remain the same. Should the budget situation improve or change, Faculty Council can consider going back to the previous arrangement which was more generous. Dean de Paula will take under advisement the

possibility of moving to that situation once we are out of the woods financially. Faculty Council will take it up again at that time. For next year, the College will stay the course of chair compensation. There can be no new avenues for non-chair course release for the same reasons as discussed above.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2008, 9:40 a.m.