

Amended December 2, 2010

The twelfth meeting of the Committee of Six for the academic year 2010-2011 was called to order by President Marx in his office at 9:30 A.M. on Thursday, November 4, 2010. Present were Professors Basu, Ciepiela, Loinaz, Rockwell, Umphrey, and Saxton, Dean Call, President Marx, and Assistant Dean Tobin, Recorder.

In light of the request made by Professor Staller at the November 2 Faculty Meeting, the Committee had a discussion about procedures, considering whether any individual faculty member should be permitted to have a written statement that she or he had read aloud at a Faculty Meeting appended to the Faculty Meeting minutes. Dean Call noted that faculty members sometimes read from statements as a means of making comments at Faculty Meetings. He said that the practice has been to summarize such statements and to incorporate them into the Faculty Meeting minutes as recorded remarks attributed to the individual who read them. President Marx noted Professor Staller's opinions of peer institutions but also that he has heard from other faculty that they disagree. Professor Saxton asked who is able to read the Faculty Meeting minutes and expressed concern that, if the statement were to be appended to the minutes, it might appear that the College is endorsing its substance. Dean Call responded that, those faculty members and administrators who are entitled to attend Faculty Meetings are the individuals to whom the minutes are distributed; however, it is possible that the substance of this and other statements appended to the minutes could be circulated far more broadly in ways over which the College has no control. Professor Rockwell noted that the minutes belong to the Faculty as a corporate body and are approved by the Faculty. He expressed the view that no individual should have undue control over the minutes or a disproportionate voice within them. The Committee agreed that it would have been appropriate for the document in question to have been submitted to the Committee of Six, as the body that sets the agenda for Faculty Meetings, before the Faculty Meeting, so that the members could have commented on the document through the Committee's minutes and could have decided whether the document should be discussed at the Faculty Meeting as part of the agenda. President Marx said that he would forward Professor Staller's statement to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as she had requested. The Committee turned to personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Call  
Dean of the Faculty