

Amended February 17, 2011

The twenty-third meeting of the Committee of Six for the academic year 2010-2011 was called to order by President Marx in his office at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, December 20, 2010. Present were Professors Basu, Ciepiela, Loinaz, Rockwell, Umphrey, and Saxton, Dean Call, President Marx, and Assistant Dean Tobin, Recorder.

The Dean informed the members that he has learned that Smith College may change its original intention to move the start of its spring semester to coincide with the dates of the beginning of the spring semester at the University of Massachusetts, and with the other Five-College institutions that have decided to do so. Dean Call noted that he has spoken with the deans at Mount Holyoke, Hampshire, and the university, and with colleagues at Five Colleges, and that they plan to continue spring calendar conversations with colleagues at Smith. Currently, Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Hampshire, and the university are scheduled to start their spring semesters within two class days of each other every year beginning next year. One saving grace is that, for the next two years, spring 2012 and 2013, taking Smith's current plans into account, all five institutions are scheduled to start their spring terms within two or three days of each other. President Marx said that he had communicated his concern about this decision to Smith's president, stressing the negative impact that an out-of-sync calendar could have on Five-College collaboration. Dean Call said that he would share Smith's decision with the College Council. Several members wondered if the Faculty should be asked to reconsider its vote on the calendar, in light of Smith's decision. Dean Call said that he imagines that the College Council would consider this possibility but that no action is necessary for at least a year. After discussing a committee nomination, the Committee turned to personnel matters. The members then discussed possible agenda items for the Spring semester.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Call  
Dean of the Faculty