

## Committee on Priorities and Resources

### Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2011

In attendance: Prof. Rob Benedetto, Dean of the Faculty Gregory Call, *ex officio*, Technical Services Associate Mark Fiegenbaum, Adam Gerchick '13, HVAC Technician Kevin Gladu, Associate Treasurer/Director of the Budget Shannon Gurek, *ex officio*, Prof. Nasser Hussain, chair, Prof. Jagu Jagannathan, Luke Lavin '13, Associate Director of Human Resources Maria-Judith Rodriguez, *ex officio*, Prof. Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Treasurer Peter Shea, *ex officio*, George Tepe '14, and Sarah Barr, recorder.

Not in attendance: none.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am.

### Proceedings

1. Introductions – Committee members introduced themselves.
2. Logistics – Committee members discussed potential meeting times during the fall semester and decided to meet on Tuesday mornings from 8:30-9:50 am in Terrace Room A, Valentine Hall.
3. Minutes process – Sarah Barr will record the minutes for the CPR during the 2011-2012 academic year. Minutes will focus on the sum and substance of the proceedings. Sarah will bring the revised minutes to each meeting for approval.
4. Agenda items for the fall semester
  - a. Faculty salary review (October 4, 2011) - Shannon Gurek will present the report, which includes data from the last three years.
  - b. Spend rate – Peter Shea will present data on the spend rate in early November.
  - c. Changes to parental leave – The committee will explore the impact of extending parental leave benefits for non-birth parents. Ernie LeBlanc will present information to the committee. Prof. Hussain will share past correspondence about the issue with the committee. The committee would also like information about peer institutions, demographic projections for the college, and the impact of a partial increase of the benefit.
  - d. Employee Council – Prof. Hussain will contact Suzette Farnham to schedule a meeting with the Employee Council.
  - e. Managers' Council - Prof. Hussain will contact Molly Mead to schedule a meeting with the Managers' Council.
  - f. Faculty Housing Committee – The committee will review the comprehensive revision to the faculty housing plan with a focus on the mortgage benefit and the conversion of some of properties into multi-family rental units. Jonathan Devins, Rental Property Supervisor, might be a useful source of information.
  - g. Salary compression – The committee was wondering if there are salary compression issues for faculty members and staff. Various data collection strategies were discussed including cohort comparisons. Maria-Judith Rodriguez will ask her staff to gather information for the committee.

- h. Climate study – Human Resources is considering various approaches to a campus wide climate study. The committee agreed that it might be able to help with the action plan if a study is undertaken.
  - i. Amherst Association of Students – The AAS is exploring its relationship with the college, especially its financial commitments to various programs and initiatives. The students will research the history of expenditures and send information to the committee prior to any discussions.
  - j. Capital building projects – Jim Brassord will meet with the committee to discuss the housing committee’s report as well as 79 South Pleasant Street.
5. Little Red School House – Plans for the new science center continue to move forward. No decision has been made about the Little Red School House building.
  6. Spring Meeting Schedule – Faculty members should review their spring teaching schedule so a spring meeting time can be identified at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4 at 8:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Barr