

Amended April 25, 2012

The twenty-fifth meeting of the Committee of Six for the academic year 2011-2012 was called to order by President Martin in the her office at 3:30 P.M. on Monday, April 16, 2012. Present were Professors Basu, Ferguson, Hewitt, Loinaz, Ratner, and Umphrey, Dean Call, and Assistant Dean Tobin, Recorder.

The meeting began with “Announcements from the President.” President Martin noted that the Senior Staff and she will be reviewing the procedures that are in place for addressing incidents of sexual misconduct. She said that she is aware of the concerns about this issue that are being expressed by some students and wants to develop a fuller understanding about the College’s procedures, before considering possible changes. The President informed the members that she had recently attended a performance of The Women of Amherst’s “If These Lips Could Talk,” which had been inspired by Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues* and had focused on women’s experiences at Amherst, including experiences of sexual assault. President Martin had found the performance “compelling,” she said. Professor Basu noted that she and other members of the Faculty who are members of the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies plan to meet informally with some of the student-performers to discuss the issues that had been highlighted in the performance.

Continuing with her remarks, President Martin informed the Committee that representatives from Isaacson, Miller, the search firm that will be assisting the College with the search for the Provost, will be on campus in late-April or early-May to discuss the position and gather impressions that will inform the development of a position description. The President said that it is her hope that the Committee of Six will participate in these conversations with the firm. The members said that they would be happy to do so.

The President next informed the members that the Dean and she had attended an event for Trustees, campaign volunteers, and donors on April 11 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York to celebrate the accomplishments to date of the Lives of Consequence campaign. The gathering was an opportunity to recognize the achievement of raising \$425 million in support for financial aid, faculty and curricular support, and student enrichment opportunities, as well as to showcase the next phase of the campaign—Creating Connections. During this phase, Amherst will continue to focus on these priorities, as well as on support for the construction of the new science center. Professor Loinaz asked if there are plans to raise funds for student research as part of the campaign. President Martin said that support for student research is one of the campaign goals.

Under his announcements, Dean Call reported back to the Committee about the apportionment of funds for next year’s recipients of the Rufus B. Kellogg University Fellowships. The Dean noted that the fund’s endowment has performed well and that approximately 20 percent of the fund’s income now supports a fellowship for a student to do graduate work at a German university. Because the fund’s endowment has grown, it is now possible to award fellowships to cover the cost of graduate school for two additional students. He has learned that the award to attend a German university is around \$15,000 per year, because the fees are lower than those at most graduate schools in other countries, and that the other two awards are for approximately \$27,000 per year. Dean Call next informed the Committee that, as it does each year, the Committee of Six would be meeting with the Board of Trustees during its Commencement meetings, most likely on Friday, May 18. The Committee turned briefly to personnel matters.

Under “Questions from Committee Members,” Professor Loinaz noted that, for some time, a number of colleagues, himself among them, have been serving on an informal advisory committee to the Mead Art Museum. When the group last met, the question arose as to whether the faculty members involved should receive credit for their service. He noted that the group

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meets at least once during each semester. Dean Call said that he would be pleased to have his office note service on the committee by those faculty members who serve. Adding a Mead Advisory Committee as a standing committee of the Faculty would require a vote of the Faculty, the Dean noted. Professor Loinaz thanked the Dean for his willingness to list the advisory committee as an ad hoc faculty committee. The members turned to personnel matters.

The Committee next reviewed its proposed revisions to the Dean's letters to department chairs and candidates concerning reappointment and tenure that are sent to department chairs and candidates each spring and approved the letters. The Dean noted that the letters will include a comment that, if the Faculty approves any changes to reappointment and/or tenure procedures that would take effect in 2012-2013 as a result of any motions that the Committee of Six may decide to bring forward in May, the procedures outlined in the letters would be adjusted to reflect the changes. The Committee turned to personnel matters.

The meeting concluded with the members discussing possible language for a draft motion to propose changes to some reappointment and tenure procedures. The Committee noted that, if it is decided that candidates for reappointment should be required to submit to the Committee of Six a letter about their scholarship, teaching, and service, candidates for tenure should also be required to do so. Currently, the candidate's letter for tenure is optional. Dean Call said that his practice has been to encourage all candidates for tenure to submit the letter, as it brings their voice into the process and has been most valuable to the Committee in the past. The members agreed to finalize the language for the motions (one for reappointment and one for tenure) at their next meeting, when the draft agenda for a Faculty Meeting on May 1 would be considered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Call
Dean of the Faculty