

Committee on Priorities and Resources
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2012

In attendance: Assistant Director Carol Allman-Morton, Prof. Rob Benedetto, Dean of the Faculty Gregory Call, *ex officio*, Christopher Friend '14, Treasurer Shannon Gurek, *ex officio*, Prof. Nasser Hussain, Prof. Jagu Jagannathan, chair, Director of Human Resources Maria-Judith Rodriguez, *ex officio*, Prof. Karen Sánchez-Eppler, George Tepe '14, and Sarah Barr, recorder.

Not in attendance: none.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

Proceedings

1. Introductions – Committee members introduced themselves.
2. Logistics – The committee will meet every other Wednesdays from 4-5:30 pm in the Terrace Room of Valentine Hall. Fall meeting dates include September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7, December 5, and other Wednesdays as needed.
3. Agenda items for the fall semester
 - a. 2012/2013 Budget (September 26) – Shannon Gurek will present the budget that was approved by the Trustees and the outcomes of the CPR budget recommendations.
 - b. Faculty salary review - Shannon Gurek will present the report, which includes data from the last three years.
 - c. Employee Council – Prof. Jagannathan will contact Sarah Barr to schedule a meeting with the Employee Council.
 - d. Managers' Council - Prof. Jagannathan will contact Lizzie Barker to schedule a meeting with the Managers' Council.
 - e. Faculty Housing Committee – Prof. Jagannathan will contact Prof. Dan Barbezat to see if the CPR can be helpful in the deliberations about faculty housing.
 - f. Dependent Care – Consultants were hired to explore the need for dependent care. They conducted a series of focus group meetings and completed market research (number of children expected, availability of care, and cost). The report will be finalized in December.
 - g. Compliance Committee – Paul Murphy will head the newly formed Compliance Committee. It is likely that he will meet with the CPR this semester.
4. Association of Amherst Students – Tania Dias, AAS President, met with Prof. Jagannathan to discuss student concerns and initiatives.
 - a. Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) – The students are working to move the MRC to a more visible location on campus with the support of the president.
 - b. Divestment from Coal – Students are interested in divesting the college's endowment portfolio from stocks associated with the coal industry. The CPR discussed the role that the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investment might have in this project. The students are meeting with the investment group this week.
5. Guiding Principles – The CPR discussed the need for a set of guiding principles or a rubric that could help inform discussions about benefits so decisions could be made on less of

an ad hoc basis. After some deliberation, the committee agreed to draft a set of principles that it could try to use this year once it gathers some information about the benefits questions this year and the recurring questions. Next year, the CPR can reflect on the principles and modify them. Time will be dedicated to this process at the meeting on September 26.

6. Cost of College Administration – A faculty member has expressed a concern about the amount of money the college spends on consultants. The committee expressed an interest in learning more about the expenses associated with consultants and independent contractors and the results of their work.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 26 at 4 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Barr