

Committee on Priorities and Resources
Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2012

In attendance: Assistant Director Carol Allman-Morton, Prof. Rob Benedetto, Dean of the Faculty Gregory Call, *ex officio*, Rental Property Supervisor, Jonathan Devins, 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.
Guests from the Employee Council: Danielle Laferriere, Sara Leonard, Cindy Lepage, Cate Zolkos

Not in attendance: Roger Creel '13

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

Proceedings

1. Minutes – The minutes from November 7, 2012 were approved.
2. Introductions – The members of the CPR introduced themselves to the guests from the Employee Council. The chair explained that the committee advises senior administrators and the board on budgetary matters, completes the annual faculty salary report, reviews requests for new non-faculty FTEs and budget increases, and submits recommendations to senior administrators at the end of the academic year. The CPR members expressed appreciation for the staff who serve as members of the committee.
3. Updates from the Employee Council – The Employee Council presented information about their work during the 2012/2013 academic year.
 - a. Human Resources Working Group – The Employee Council has established a strong working relationship with the Human Resources department and meets monthly with Maria-Judith Rodriguez. During these meetings, policy questions, concerns, and changes are discussed. The group advocates for staff but does not serve as a grievance board.
 - b. Building Community – The group discussed the ways the Employee Council has worked to strengthen the sense of community on campus through its efforts, especially the Open House program. In the coming weeks, the Employee Council would like to review the suggestions from the Day of Dialogue to identify the ways it can bring together faculty, staff, and students. The student members of the CPR suggested that the Employee Council collaborate with the AAS on this project. It was also suggested that the Employee Council explore ways that small groups (Amherst family/team/pod) of faculty, staff and students could come together on a regular basis.
 - c. Budget – The Employee Council has a small budget that they use to fund three Open Houses each year, the note taker, and meals during meetings. The Employee Council did not ask for any additional funding at this time but discussed returning if their new programming ideas have a budgetary impact.
4. Online Courses – The Dean's office will present the faculty with a proposal for joining edX this month. The CPR discussed the potential budgetary impact of this relationship including stipends for course development and teaching as well as stipends for academic interns. The Board of Trustees has already allocated up to \$2 million to participate in online learning initiatives, such as edX, but there will be additional costs each time a course is created (\$20,000) and repeated (\$12,000). The Committee of Six and the CEP are considering the impact of the partnership with edX as well. If the college decides to join the consortium soon, it will be possible to start developing courses next semester. The CPR was curious about the process for approving courses and the availability of appropriate space on campus for online courses. There were concerns raised about the role of certificates in the process, especially if

students do not fully understand the difference between certificates and credits. The college will need to communicate the value of the certificates very clearly.

5. Spring Meeting Schedule – Committee will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 4 pm. The first meeting of the spring semester will be on February 6.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 5 at 4 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Barr