

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2005

The Chair began with announcements and then asked for suggestions from the faculty on topics O'Donnell could discuss with the group. The faculty presented specific questions and it was decided to ask O'Donnell's perspective on Referenda C and D and what he viewed as the consequences if the measures were defeated.

Rick O'Donnell began informally with general remarks as to what CCHE is doing and reported that performance contracts are now complete. General education core curriculum issues which will directly affect faculty and points on student retention and graduation concerns still exist in the contracts. Funding for higher education is in the hands of voters at this point but the CCHE is creating two budgets, once based on the passage of C&D and the other if the referenda fail. In the past CCHE recommended the legislature adopt across the board cuts but will not be recommending this if C fails as some smaller colleges might be forced to close their doors. CCHE is wrestling with how to look at where to cut and is preparing scenarios for both 10 and 25 percent budget cuts, which is what every agency in state government is doing at present. Anything other than undergraduate and graduate education and research which are considered core functions in the higher ed budget will be subject to cuts first if C fails and we may see some consolidations or rural community colleges close.

Libraries Committee Chair Dubin said the Resolution on the Annual Increase for Library Materials was self explanatory; the library will bleed journals unless funds are set aside, and either the faculty either want the library to maintain its current collection or they don't, and he asked for an indexing the cost of journals to the budget as a way to maintain the collection. Kasoy suggested there were disadvantages to indexing and that we ask the question in context of the needs the institution and faculty have. Dubin said a "sunset clause" to revisit the question in five years could certainly be a reasonable addition to the motion. Bintliff moved that the motion be forwarded as is to the full BFA on October 6, it was seconded, and a vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the motion would go to the full assembly October 6.