Finance Committee Minutes

2008-11-19

Present:  Monika Ardelt
Jane Brockmann
Sam Brown
Mike Mayne
Kennie Merz
David Pharies
Paul Robinson
Andrea Sterk
Caroline Wiltshire

Meeting commenced at 5:00 pm.

The agenda contained the following items.

(1) Chair election. After some discussion on the rôle of the chair, David Pharies was nominated by Sam; the nomination was seconded, approved by all present, and accepted.

(2) The Faculty Council is currently considering a resolution that strongly objects to faculty layoffs while hiring new faculty; their wording was (2008-11-19) still in flux. We discussed the resolution, and the question of whether our signing on would be appropriate, but agreed to defer full discussion.

(3) Reactions to the 2008-11-14 meeting with Dean D’Anieri. This discussion was rather wide-ranging, with the following highlights:
   o We should be ‘proactive’ rather than reactive. Support should be sought from legislators and the Athletic Association, for example.
   o We should encourage CLAS to consider strategic planning and the articulation of a mission; this is perhaps especially important in these difficult times.
   o In connexion with the recent round of layoffs, the Finance Committee was firmly behind the idea of protecting tenure-track faculty: among other things, the lack of such protection would adversely affect any hiring efforts.
   o We should consider not only cuts but also possible sources of additional revenue. It was noted that some programs have already introduced laboratory/technology fees, but other sources should be sought. In a similar vein, it was suggested that donors might be asked to allow greater flexibility in the use of donated funds.
   o It was decided that we should ask Kimberly Browne to provide us with budgetary data on the hiring searches currently in progress.
Homework (aka ‘Action Item’): Finance Committee members are to review its previous reports with a view to preparing ‘bullet’ items for a brief document to be sent to Dean D’Anieri; Dean D’Anieri will then be invited to discuss this document with us.

It was agreed that our next meeting will be held on Monday, 1 December, at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.