

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 28 1998

Senators Present: L. Bush E. Crane D. Defino J. DeRidder N. Drewer T. Erskine G. Ference (Vice President) J. Kalb (Secretary) K. Fox M. Garner J. Jenne S. Muller D. Parker (President) K. Shannon C. Thomas D. Whaley.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order by Senate President Parker at 3 p.m. who turned matters over to President Merwin who had asked for this meeting with the Senate to discuss matters related to Provost Phil Creighton's imminent departure for the presidency of East Oregon State University.

President Merwin mentioned that he had spoken thus far with the Executive Committee of the University Forum the Academic Deans and others seeking names of individuals who may be suited to the post of Acting Provost.

He said he couldn't say enough good things about Phil. He thought the timing of Phil's departure was

bad but any timing would be bad. Phil's a good man he'll be a good president and he'll be missed.

Jim Lackie and Florence Pritchard have also announced their upcoming retirements. Merwin expects Phil will unofficially be gone before July 1; once you're president somewhere else it's difficult to be a provost anymore.

The search committee for the provost will consist of two faculty members from each of the four schools (with the names available by May 15) a member of the President's Cabinet two members of the Staff Advisory Council and two students--one undergraduate and one graduate--selected by the Student Government Association. The President would reserve the prerogative of selecting the Chair.

He would like to convene the search committee by finals week for the preparation of a job description and suitable advertising copy for placing ads in August and September in appropriate publications. Applications would be reviewed in October candidates would visit campus in November a decision would be reached by the end of the year and the new provost would take the helm on February 1st. The February 1 date was the start date proposed for the last search and all the candidates could fit that timetable so the President doesn't think it will pose a problem.

As for the temporary replacement he wants an acting not an interim provost. This would be someone who is not in the running for the position and that applicants know is not up for the job. That way we don't discourage candidates due to suspicions the job is going to an internal pre-selected candidate.

President Merwin indicated that the current provost position is so large as to be almost untenable. There are too many responsibilities and too many people report directly to the provost. One change will be to decentralize the budget and give the Deans more budgetary authority and responsibility.

Institutional Research Grants and Planning would report to the President instead of the Provost for the time being. This may be difficult because with the new Capital Campaign beginning June 12 the President will be off Campus approximately two days each week.

In looking for an acting provost the President is looking for someone who is not just a place holder. Any candidate should have people skills know what being a faculty member consists of have values consistent with those of the institution be able to work with the cabinet work well with others be able to work with the Chancellor's staff understand the concept of a student centered campus understand the planning process accept the agreed upon

strategic plan and work to implement it and be able to make decisions.

The President would like to go with an internal candidate but would also entertain the possibility of an external candidate for acting provost if necessary. (He spoke a bit about "rent-a-provosts the advantages and disadvantages, and bringing faculty into that process if it were needed.)

For the time being the academic Deans will be brought into the Cabinet.

On the matter of Vision IV: Pathways to Lifelong Learning it is an ill-conceived planning model and the process brought the faculty in at the last hour. The President advised the Chancellor to get faculty to look at/work on it and he believes that's what has been decided. Tom Erskine indicated that the last meeting of CUSF suggests this is so; Vision IV has been scrapped and they will start again from scratch.

The President said that distance education should never be the way a degree program is delivered.

President Parker then charged the school representatives of the Senate to meet in order to determine how faculty would be selected for the search committee. Each school will forward 3 or 4 names; President Merwin in consultation with the officers of the Senate will select the 2 from each

school with some consideration for gender and racial diversity on the panel. The Senate should have the results in 10 days.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Submitted by John Kalb Senate secretary

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