

Minutes of the Emory Faculty Council

April 9, 1996

The minutes of the March 19 meeting were received as distributed.

Technology at Emory

Jim Johnson reported on the future of technology at Emory. He noted that his written report including status of technology and recommendations for the future is in draft form and comments are welcomed.

He commented that the minutes of the Council are now being distributed by email which would not have been possible three years ago; that Emory must remain competitive in the arena of technology; that digitization of all forms of communication--including art and music--has the potential to have the profound impact that the printed book has had; that faculty skills in the use of information technology needs improvement; that the increase in the use of technology on the Emory campus over the last ten years has been dramatic, including ten times as many net connections, 1200 percent increase in PCs, a 600 percent increase in student work stations and exponential annual increases in the use of the internet; that access around the campus is not equal in all locations and divisions; that issues of security, adequate support staff, and funding remain; and that our not having engineering or statistical centers that would provide natural resources for help with technology makes it more difficult for faculty to work in some areas of scholarship.

President Chace commended the Faculty Council for the quality and participation of the Town Hall Meeting held on November 20.

Dr. Frye invited continued discussion of the university level tenure and promotion committee. There is concern in the medical school about the purpose such a committee would serve, and in nursing there is concern about the ability of such a committee to understand scholarship outside the expertise of an individual member. One suggestion was that a university committee would look at the rigor of standards of a school rather than at individual cases of tenure and promotion.

Dr. Chace commented that the university-wide committee would be a body with broad oversight responsibility to affect equity throughout the university at the time tenure is recommended. Its second function would be to provide a high level faculty group with which the President can consult.

One member suggested that the group be called the Faculty Advisory Board to reflect its role.

His proposals to the Provost include:

- Connect everyone to the network.
- Create an information resources council.

- Implement a "federal" model for planning and developing technology on the campus that allows for common standards and individual entrepreneurship.
- Coordinate activities in support of teaching through the Teaching Commission.
- Develop mechanisms for encouraging university-wide core facilities on the model of BIMCORE.

In the DISCUSSION that followed Johnson's presentation the following comments and observations were made:

1. The report should be summarized and shared with students.
2. Network is particularly important to people who are physically remote from the campus.
3. Each freshman class is more technologically sophisticated than the one before and that sophistication includes higher expectations for the technology capability on the campus.
4. Financing through external grants is limited, but cooperation with other institutions in the area might make Emory a more attractive grant recipient.
5. Increased access requires increased time in reading email, listening to voice mail, etc. Will there be a time when the technology will result in less paper?
6. The need to communicate appears to be insatiable with the upper boundary being simply the number of hours in the day during which one can interact.
7. Paper will remain the primary display medium. The savings come in using electronics to store and transmit: think of no file cabinets and no mail.
8. Education is likely to become more "just in time" rather than "just in case" which is the current model. Distance learning may allow us to bring the world to Emory, not just bring Emory to the world.

Arts Center

Rosemary Magee, Associate Dean of the College; Sarah Boykin, College Architect; and Randy Fullerton of Theatre Studies presented a description of the process of seeking appropriate housing for the fine arts. After a survey of values and goals the task force identified the priorities; assessed existing spaces, and decided that rather than a single space, a group of spaces would best meet the defined needs. From this they created a "village" or center concept. The village could be ready for use in early 2000. Currently permission to go to formal design process is being sought.

In the DISCUSSION the following comments and observations were made:

1. This requires less space than previous estimates because it shares space as well as reducing some requirements.
2. Faculty in the arts are excited about the proposal because it provides what is needed and has a nice feel to it that will be better for Emory than a single monolith.
3. This plan is expected to meet the foreseeable needs of the arts for the next ten years at least.
4. The planning has actively involved the academic departments and continues to do so.
5. Fishburne will be available for parking for evening performances. Funds have yet to be raised.

University Research Committee

Melanie Kingston presented the report of the Committee. The budget for the year was \$649,000; 56 meritorious grant requests were unfunded this year; summer awards will be available to all faculty not just junior faculty although junior faculty will continue to be preferred; non-tenure track faculty are eligible funds but are given a penalty for being non-tenure track; and funding from other sources is a penalty. The report was received with thanks to the Committee for its work.

Faculty Relations Committee

Chairman Rich Freer reported that there were no hearings this year and that the Committee is actively working on revising the grey book and the procedures used in grey book hearings.

Carter Center Liaison

Luther Smith reported on the creation of the program and reminded Council members that they need to serve as recruiters for the program.

Distinguished Lectureship

Luke Johnson reported that the committee will be sending a list of nominations to the Council for their comments.

Harriet King gave a status report on each of these initiatives from the Office of the Provost.