

University Enrichment Committee

January 22, 2007

Minutes

Present: Bill Barry, Rob Beezer (Secretary), John Finney, Suzanne Holland, Michael Johnson, Aislinn Melchior, Mark Reinitz (Chair), Tanya Stambuk, Susan Stewart, Amy VanEngen Spivey, Randy Worland, Jerry Yonkman

Personnel Changes: Diane Kelley and George Irving are now on leave, Suzanne Holland joins the committee after returning from a leave. As decided in September, Mark Reinitz will serve as committee Chair for the Spring semester.

Reinitz called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Minutes of the October 4, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed, with Holland abstaining.

The committee discussed and decided upon meeting times for the full committee and the various subcommittees for the remainder of the term. The full committee plans to meet again on Friday, February 16 at 3:00 PM on Monday, March 26 at 3:00 PM.

Finney reminded the committee that nominations for the 2008 Register Lecturer would be due February 1.

Finney briefed the committee on the state of funds to support student research, faculty research and faculty travel. Student research funds have had generous carryover in previous years, but those have been drawn down. It was expected that these funds would be close to, or insufficient, to meet demand. The university budget planning process is near its conclusion and Finney will investigate if the committee's request was funded. The picture, based on current funding, is still unclear since most funds are awarded in the spring.

The state of faculty research funds are not much changed from previous years at this time of year. Faculty travel grants will be tight this year, though Finney expects to fund all requested "first trips," perhaps with judicious transfers from other funds supporting faculty.

There was significant discussion about one faculty conference participation travel grant application which Finney was reluctant to consider administratively. At issue was a conference fee where the faculty member did not physically travel to the conference, but did register for the conference so that a paper could be included in an internet session. By a vote of 6-1 the grant was approved.

A planned discussion on laptop computer loans will be carried forward to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Rob Beezer
Secretary