

Staff Council Executive Committee Meeting with President Skorton
Monday, January 26, 2004, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
101 JH Conference Room

Present: Christine Annicella, Ella Born, Vicki Brown, Charlie Eastham, Hazel Kerr, Dave Martin, Cheryl Reardon, Michelle Wichman

Administrative Liaison: Kevin Ward, Interim Associate Director of Human Resources (HR) and Director of Employee and Labor Relations

1. President Skorton's comments

- a. President Skorton discussed his deliberation over selecting the new Provost. He indicated that he came to the decision just last Wednesday night and only after consulting again with many others in leadership roles at the University, including Charlie Eastham. President Skorton said that Dr. Michael Hogan is an impressive scholar and has Iowa ties. President Skorton thanked Executive Committee members who participated in the selection process and said that he appreciated all the input that was given.
- b. President Skorton announced that the General Education Funds (GEF) Task Force will be meeting for the first time this coming Friday. He anticipates that, at least initially, this group will seem cumbersome and chaotic. But, he also hopes to achieve a more collaborative process for dealing with budgetary concerns. President Skorton said he would continue meeting separately with deans and vice presidents. The task force will be dealing with the 2.5% budget cut from four months ago, the 2.1% deficit carried into this year, an underachievement of enrollment, and an underestimate of growth in indirect costs. He expects the group to consider the budget concerns for this year, next year, and the year after. They should be looking at areas of the University that have means of support other than the General Education Fund. President Skorton is anxious to have the Task Force begin their deliberations and has set April 15, 2004 as a completion date for their work. Charlie and Cheryl can keep staff updated on the process and; Dave Martin and Paul Muhly with the Joint Faculty/Staff Budget Committee will be kept aware of the progress of the Task Force.
- c. President Skorton mentioned it is good to have the search for Provost completed since more searches are due to begin or have already begun: 1) President Skorton will be making the final decision on the Law School Dean since the new Provost will not assume his duties until July. The search committee has narrowed the field to seven finalists and will present a list of three unranked choices to President Skorton some time mid-February. 2) With the Provost search completed, President Skorton would like to get the search started for Vice President for Research as soon as possible. He asked Charlie to talk with James Torner as soon as possible to provide the names of some staff who might be interested in serving on the VPR search committee. 3) There also is, or soon will be, a search underway for Director of Sponsored Programs.

2. Staff Council President's comments

Charlie mentioned the upcoming forum with President Skorton, scheduled for March 2nd and taking place in the Nursing Building. Charlie also asked President Skorton if he would be interested in having another forum in late spring or early summer, perhaps after the current State Legislative session. President Skorton was amenable and asked Charlie to check with the President's office staff to determine what dates he might be available.

3. Updates and discussion topics

- a. Charlie wondered if there has ever been, or if there would be, a post-selection review of the search process after the candidate has been hired. He specifically meant a review of the Provost search. Charlie did not indicate disagreement with President Skorton's decision, but rather, wondered if a review of the process should be part of the process. President Skorton indicated that he did not expect there would be a review, but certainly Charlie could pursue this issue if he wanted. President Skorton suggested that Charlotte Westerhaus might be the appropriate person to discuss this with. Kevin Ward agreed that Charlotte would be a good person to talk with. Charlie also commented that this might provide an opportunity to determine what worked well and what didn't work well with the process. It might help to determine what ideas might be more effective for other searches.
- b. Dave Martin asked about the status of David Dobbins with regard to the GEF Task Force. President Skorton confirmed that AVP Dobbins has asked for an unspecified leave of absence, but that he does remain available to participate with the Task Force.
- c. Cheryl Reardon expressed concern that P & S staff might be targeted as the GEF Task Force begins its work. President Skorton agreed that in times of budgetary difficulties, normally non-organized labor and non-tenured faculty are at risk. However, he also believes there are several mechanisms that could be employed and possibly avoid layoffs. It is with this in mind, that he has called together the GEF Task Force and hopes this group will consider alternative means of dealing with the budget cuts. President Skorton again mentioned concern for other state programs, such as DHS, that have no other means of support apart from state appropriations. Kevin Ward indicated that term employees and temporary employees would likely be more of a target than those protected by notice requirements due to status. President Skorton indicated that Visiting Professors in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences also might be targeted. President Skorton offered to come to a Staff Council meeting, either alone or along with Pat Cain and Doug True, if Charlie or Cheryl thought this might be a good idea. He also asked Kevin if he could provide a report, at the February Staff Council meeting, on the number of layoffs within the P & S group over the past few years.

4. Kevin Ward's comments (standing in for Sue Buckley)

Kevin Ward had no comments other than those already offered during the earlier discussions.

5. Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Continued

Future Executive Committee Meetings:	Future Meetings with President Skorton:
Wednesday, 2/18/04, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Monday, 2/23/04, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 3/17/04, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 3/30/04, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
	Thursday, 4/29/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 5/28/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 6/25/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Thursday, 7/29/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Thursday, 8/26/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 9/24/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 10/29/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 11/19/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
	Friday, 12/17/04, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ella Born, Staff Council Secretary