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AGENDA COMMITTEE

AC • DC

DIRECT COMMUNICATION

March 7, 1986

Dear Faculty Colleagues:

The Agenda Committee is turning over a new leaf. It's actually not a new leaf, because we don't have any old leaves. We've been like Adam and Eve in the Garden. So this leaf is actually our first leaf. But its purpose is not to serve our modesty; it is, quite the contrary, to expose ourselves. We therefore intend to use this terrific logo of ours to head a regular newsletter to you, so that you can know what pies we've had our fingers in. If you don't like what we're doing, or how we're doing it, please, tell us. But politely, and, of course, in writing. This first one may be a little long, because it will report on about 4 meetings worth of stuff; in the future you should get them after each meeting, and they'll be shorter. I don't care if you read the whole thing; just always read the paragraphs headed by "Dear Faculty Colleagues." Those will be from me, and you never want to miss them. You just never can tell what little tidbits or witticisms might crop up in those paragraphs, and in this day and age, who can afford to miss witticisms--or tidbits, for that matter?

I want to reiterate two things I said at the last faculty meeting.

(1) Betsy Diffendal has withdrawn from the CFR (Council of Faculty Representatives); Duke Kuehn has agreed to take over the position. He was nominated for this position on the last ballot, and received ample support from you in the voting. Duke has both the support and appreciation of the faculty in joining Betty Ruth Estes and Lovern King in assuming what looks to be an increasingly important position now that the HEC Board (successor to old CPE) wants to hear faculty views directly and not via the university presidents. I am confident he'll do a good job representing our views.

(2) All of you manifested your innate wisdom and good sense in electing who you elected to the Agenda Committee. They are a great group, and have been extremely supportive to me, your humble chair. Keep talking to them.

Keep those cards and letters coming.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Finkel

Actions and Decisions Taken by the Agenda Committee

--Advised deans to make an appointment to Computer Advisory Committee which will represent both faculty user groups: faculty who teach in the computing curriculum and faculty for whom computing is a resource.

--Approved a proposal for a Prior Learning Program from Cher Stuewe-Portnoff.

--Encouraged and supported Patrick to start the open Provost Lunches. We urge you to attend these as often as you can.

--Helped get faculty representation on the Enrollment Coordinating Committee. Eric Larson and Larry Eickstaedt will represent the faculty on the ECC.

--Supported the deans in their decision to have a faculty retreat off-campus this year.

--Asked Patrick to publish a list of all DTF members so you can know whom to talk to about what issues.

--Decided, despite the language in our new faculty-approved governance document, not to recommend to Patrick that the Dean's Search DTF consist only of faculty, with staff and students in advisory capacity. We did have a voice in the constitution of the DTF and felt it was too soon after the new governance procedures have started to take this step. We wish to have more time to study the evolving relationship between faculty and deans, and to allow more time for those relationships to evolve.

--Recommended that no changes be made in the structure of Specialty Areas (e.g., creating a new MPI) until the Strategic Planning Process is completed.

--Resolved not to bring any items before the faculty in a faculty meeting without having at least something to you in writing prior to the meeting.

--Made a proposal to Patrick, which you should hear about soon, regarding how the Burlington-Northern Faculty Achievement Awards should be given out.

I have not included everything, and in particular, not the items we have brought before you in faculty meetings. But I think I have included those things you'd want to know about. Finally:

--the whole Agenda Committee urges you strongly to take an active and interested part in the Strategic Planning meetings. If we are going to take and new directions in the coming years at this college, the faculty better damn well insure that we have a big voice in determining what those directions are.