

Columbia College Chicago
Executive Committee of the College Council
Minutes of the meeting of Sept. 25, 2009
Submitted by Sandra Allen, College Council secretary

Members in attendance: Kevin Fuller, Sandra Allen, Tom Nawrocki, Constantin Rasinariu, Susan Marcus (representing Louise Love), Alicia Berg and Keith Kostecka. Parliamentarian Daniel Jordan also was present. Absent were Hope Daniels and Tau Huang.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kevin Fuller at 10:06 a.m. Kevin recommended the committee members review the Council website to review the available information. Sandra noted the information was current as of this date. Missing information includes names of members of some committees. This information has been requested from Chair's Council and Provost and will be added as it is available. Keith Kostecka recommended committee members send corrections to Sandra Allen.
2. Appointment of parliamentarian -- Kevin directed attention to appointing Parliamentarian for academic year 2009/10. After a short discussion, Keith nominated Dan Jordan; Tom seconded. Dan was unanimously appointed.
3. Refreshments at monthly College Council meetings -- The Committee discussed continuing to provide food for Council members at monthly meetings. Due to the present economic situation, in consultation with the Provost and VP, Academic Affairs, Kevin reported the consensus of opinion that is prudent to scale back to a beverage service only. Keith suggested the option be left open for lunch if meetings go longer than two hours. Alicia supported the suggestion to scale back. By acclimation, the members decided to proceed accordingly.
4. Availability of Standing Committee Reports -- Kevin raised the issue of providing printed copies of Standing Committee reports to Council, noting its cost in actual paper and time expenditure. Alicia noted it is more than just cost; it is about "going green", and leading by example. Kevin suggested we provide copies of only those materials critical to the meeting's agenda and action items from committees. Sandra reinforced the need to have these reports the Tuesday before the Friday meeting. Routine reports will be available to the Council on the website. Alicia reminded the Committee there is precedent for this change. After a brief discussion, it was unanimously agreed to proceed accordingly.
5. Committee member vacancies -- Kevin noted there are vacancies on Standing Committees and Executive Committee. These new members should be elected at the Council's October meeting. Kevin will add this item to the agenda for action by the Council.

6. Honors Program -- Keith Cleveland joined the Committee meeting to provide an update on the Honors Program which will be piloted within LAS. He noted there is considerable interest by high school students in Columbia's offering an honors program. While there are pending elements to be resolved, he presented a brief overview of: criteria for students to qualify for the program; credit hours required for students to complete the program; and courses and possible instructors; class size; and the sequence of courses to be offered. Keith said the biggest difference is in the way each course will be taught. He said students will be expected to be more independent, with guided inquiry replacing lectures. He said the approach is intended to result in areas open to discovery, in "fruitful ambiguity". It is expected the honors program will be available to existing Columbia students in Spring 2010 beginning with four courses in LAS. Recruitment subsequently will begin for new students who matriculate in Fall 2010. Keith said discussions about the program will proceed with Academic Affairs this week. They anticipate bringing the program to the Council for discussion later in the semester. Kevin asked how much input the Task Force had had in the development of the Program. Keith said the Task Force work had informed the Program, and certain elements are right from the Task Force reports. Kevin thanked Keith for appearing before the Committee.

7. Art & Material Conservation Major – Kevin reported the status of the major as of May 2009 Council meeting. Constantin provided an update, noting that over the summer, sufficient changes had been made to enlist support from Louise Love. The proposal currently awaits President Carter's decision. Alicia noted opportunities exist to study the historical record and material related to Columbia's own buildings. Constantin agreed there are a plethora of opportunities for students to pursue. Keith suggested an update to Council at its October meeting. Kevin agreed and will proceed accordingly.

8. President's Climate Commitment announcement – Kevin reported that President Carter recently signed the President's Climate Commitment, joining approximately 600 college and university presidents exercising leadership in modeling ways to achieve climate neutrality. Alicia recognized Kevin Fuller for his initiative to partner with the Green Town Conference, which will be held on Columbia's campus on Oct. 15. Participants in the Conference include Robert Kennedy, Jr., Mayor Richard Daley and prominent national and regional environmentalists. Alicia said Columbia now has a Sustainability Plan Task Force, which includes student participation. Kevin said he will update Council members at the October meeting.

9. Enrollment & budget issues – Kevin suggested inviting Mike DeSalle to address the Council at its October meeting to update the members on the impact of the economic downturn and decreased enrollment. Constantin said the update is particularly important given recent budget reductions. Keith said Mark Kelly should

also be asked to address student enrollment, noting that Mark regularly addresses the Council. Kevin said he would invite both Mike and Mark. Kevin also brought up the issue of Columbia's growth model, and what is the best size for the College. Keith suggested the issue should be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to proceed accordingly.

10. P-Fac representation on Executive Committee – Kevin said that the Committee had been asked to consider adding a representative of the part-time faculty to the Committee. Keith reminded the Committee that this request, and others, had been considered last year, and that adding members to the Committee mandates a change in the By-Laws. After discussion, the decision was made to charge the By-laws Committee with drafting language to add a P-Fac member to the Committee. Kevin recommended the By-laws Committee be tasked with having the language available for vote at the November meeting. Keith brought up the nonvoting status of former College chairs as Committee members, suggesting the By-laws Committee be requested to make a change to voting status. The Committee agreed to discuss this at its next meeting.
11. Evening student services concern – Kevin noted recent concerns with the availability of student services to students who attend night and Saturday courses. Sandra said the issue was brought to the fore at the fall new-faculty orientation session. Alicia reminded the Committee that strides forward had been made with the new Vice President of Security. The Committee noted in its discussion that the issue is complex, and the current economic climate should be considered, but they agreed it is an issue deserving further consideration. Areas of concern include: students in crisis; access to full-time faculty; hours of the learning studio, gallery spaces; student common spaces, etc. Kevin said he will add the issue to the Council agenda, and in discussion at the next meeting, ask the Council members to suggest which Standing Committee should best be tasked with investigating the issue.
12. Shared governance – Kevin noted reported instances where administration had proceeded with significant action and decisions without consulting College Council. The Committee agreed to discuss the question at its next meeting.
13. New business – Dan said he will prepare a reminder on parliamentary procedure for the Council members. He asked the Committee to review the language before it is distributed.
14. Alicia made a motion for adjournment. Constantin seconded. Kevin adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm.