Faculty Meeting Minutes  
2 March 1987  
4:15 p.m.  
Proctor Upstairs Lounge

President Robison presided.

Minutes of the 9 February faculty meeting were approved as circulated. Administration Committee minutes of 22 January, 3, 9 and 19 February were accepted as part of the faculty record.

In final balloting for the Committee on Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure, George Saul was elected to a three-year term. While ballots were distributed and counted, the President invited announcements, and the following were offered:

--Thomas Banchoff will deliver the next Sloan lecture on "Geometry of the Fourth Dimension" on March 10.

--Deborah King will speak on Black Women in America on March 5.

--Mandala Tsabalala will visit the campus on March 23. Mr. Tsabalala will be available to visit classes while he is here.

--A committee, chaired by Mr. Andrews, is planning a Central American Symposium for next fall term. Others serving on that Committee are Mr. Bejar, Ms. Karnes and Mr. Parini.

--Tomorrow evening, the Bread and Puppet Theatre will present The Hunger Cantata on the Middlebury campus.

--A Taiwan Film Festival will run from this Thursday - Sunday.

--Jeremy Levin, a CNN correspondent and former Lebanon hostage, will visit campus on March 19-20.

--William Theodore de Bary will speak next Monday evening on East Asia in the Modern Age.

--Mr. Winkler said that he is attempting to organize a theme for next winter term around extra-terrestrial life and intelligence. He invited interested faculty to be in touch with him.

--Vice President Knox announced that the College will award use of its Paris apartment for two-four weeks this summer to the winner of a drawing to be held later this spring. Further information will be made available to all members of the College community soon.

The President announced the following:

--Nicholas Clifford has accepted appointment as College Professor.
The size of the student body is large at present, due to larger-than-predicted yield rates over the past couple of years. A decision has been made to reduce the size of next year's freshman class to approximately 450. The College's applicant pool is close to 3700 this year.

With the assistance of a donor gift, a Presidential Scholars program has been created as a way of recruiting exceptional students. Letters have been sent to a group of students in this year's applicant pool accepting them into the program. The President asked faculty to join in the efforts to attract these students to Middlebury. Further information on the program is available from Lynde Karin in the Admissions office.

The President referred to the work of the College's Drug and Alcohol Task Force, chaired by Sister Elizabeth Candron. For that Committee, Dean Lindholm showed the faculty excerpts from a video made by Nick Lieder, a Middlebury students who was addicted to drugs and alcohol while a student here. The President said that the Task Force will report to the Trustees in two weeks.

In reference to the Educational Council proposals for a freshman core program introduced at last month's meeting, Mr. Davis, clarified the following: Under the new program:

1. All freshmen would be guaranteed a slot in a small course,

2. The advising system would be integrated with freshman seminars and would enhance the advising process for that class, and

3. All students would be provided with two writing intensive courses during their first several semesters at Middlebury.

Mr. Davis said that the Educational Council would like the proposals considered as a package rather than separately. He added that, if approved, the program would go into effect in the fall of 1988, and would be reviewed by the Educational Council three years later.

Divisions reported as follows:

Humanities (Robert Ferm). General sentiment favored all the proposals. The major concerns expressed were how the staffing of freshman seminars would affect departmental offerings, and the possibility that junior faculty members might be coerced into participating.

Social Sciences (Miss Lamberti). Discussion focused on the rationale for freshman seminars, the responsibility for staffing them and the proposed method of assigning freshmen advisees to seminar course teachers. Concern was expressed that the requirement that Foundations courses be in different
divisions from a student's freshman seminar course would require students to take courses in all four divisions.

Natural Sciences (Mr. Landgren). While the Division favored some aspects of the proposal, there was less support for the text and context winter term course. A major concern was that the required structure would be particularly disadvantageous to pre-medical students.

Foreign Languages (Mr. Beyer). Sentiment was expressed in favor of the principals behind freshman seminars, but serious concern was raised in connection with the winter term course for freshmen, particularly in relation to continuing languages.

Lengthy discussion ensued, with strong views expressed on both sides. Most of the opposition concerned the winter term course, the implications of its staffing for individual faculty members, for various departments and for the College at large, and perceptions that its uniformity might not enhance the freshman experience.

Mr. Davis then moved that the Educational Council proposal, with the exception of item #4 (the winter term course), be approved.

Mr. Jacobs proposed an amendment, to allow a student's freshman seminar to be in the same division as one of that student's Foundations Courses. This was defeated by a wide margin.

Mr. Davis's proposal then passed by a vote of 67 to 19.

Mr. Davis proposed that item #4 be returned to the Educational Council for reconsideration and possibly returned to the floor at the April faculty meeting. This was approved by a substantial margin.

Because of the late hour, the President suggested and the faculty agreed that the meeting be adjourned, to be reconvened as soon as possible. He asked the Secretary of the Faculty to consult the College Events Calendar and arrange a suitable time for the meeting. The next day, announcement was made that the faculty would reconvene on Wednesday 11 March at 4:15 p.m. in Proctor Upstairs Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Jean Blodgett
Secretary of the Faculty