FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2008-09

The Faculty Executive Committee for the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management met five times during the course of the academic year. The committee identified six possible issues to be discussed during the year and also addressed any new items that came up during the year. Item 2 was a carryover from the previous year and was addressed at the appropriate time during this session. Other minor items of a day to day nature dealing with Bren School operations were also examined during the course of the year but did not require much in the way of faculty time and therefore are not included here.

1) Revisit the bylaws to reflect the actual role of the FEC.
The Bren School Bylaws, Section 2. Committees; Part 1 Executive Committee; item 1F Duties was reviewed by the committee. Items 3 & 6 of item 1F bylaws need updating, some duties overlap the authority of other committees and some do not appear to be relevant as the School has matured. The committee will seek to update the bylaws and submit them to the faculty for approval. Once approved by our faculty they will be sent to the Academic Senate for final approval and will at that time become official. This item did not go before the faculty in 2008-09 due to other issues that needed to be addressed by faculty.

2) Review the role of the Advisory Board.
On the agenda from last year and not yet resolved is the role of the Advisory Board. As the School has grown and matured the role of the Advisory Board needs to change to help the School meet the challenges of the future. The most prevalent need of the School is in the area of development. The executive committee will address the vision of the Advisory Board in conjunction with School needs and, in discussion with the Advisory Board, develop candidate criteria that can then be presented as a work in progress to the new Dean. The FEC felt that while this was a carryover issue, until we have a new Dean on board it is better to hold off so that the new Dean can weigh in on the structure of the Advisory Board and how they can help the Bren School move forward.

3) View the budget in light of new gift, short and long term.
Besides overseeing the annual Budget for the Bren School, the FEC discussed the potential new gift of $19M and the need to establish guidelines on future use of that money. In the short run (first five years) there would be about $200,000 in revenues which Laura would like to use to help balance the Bren School budget. The FEC objective is to make sure that we have guidelines in place for the use of the funds. In light of the economic downturn, this
endowment is going through changes and has been delayed. When the final processes have been completed and we have an idea of the final figures, the FEC will address the issue of how to use the endowment with the faculty and then develop appropriate guidelines.

4) **FTE planning – creating and implementing structure.**

**FTE planning** has been somewhat ad hoc at the Bren School. To make the process more consistent and transparent the FEC created an FTE planning document. This document went before the faculty and was approved on January 21, 2009. The process was followed to produce the 2009-10 FTE plan that was discussed and finalized in a February 2009 faculty retreat and then sent to Acting Dean Melack. The new FTE policy includes a 5-10 year rolling FTE plan.

5) **Environmental law FTE – Propose one or two models to faculty**

**Environmental law**, we have been through four searches in as many years. Should the FEC look at this and perhaps bring forth some guidelines or models for this position? John made a proposal: the plan he has laid on the table is to take the money we have for this position and place it in an endowment (approximately $620,000), with the earnings from the endowment use it to bring in law scholars and then at a later time when we have a clearer idea of the type of faculty member we want, hire the person who can serve our needs.

The Faculty Executive committee spent most of the year focused on creating FTE planning guidelines. They focused their attention on clusters established in years past to identify research and teaching areas, needs of the School and how to identify them outside of the clusters. Specializations were also taken into consideration.

As for the budget as the economy started its down turn it has placed the endowments into a different light. The returns as far less so monies we thought were available may not be there until the economy picks back up. The FEC will most likely become more involved with budget decisions as we enter this new climate of budget reductions.

The FEC led a productive faculty retreat in February, 2009.

The FEC conducted a secret ballot of the faculty to elect two new members for next year.
Members of the Faculty Executive Committee

Professor:
Chris Costello
Patricia Holden
Gary Libecap
Frank Davis, Chair

Assistant Dean Laura Haston
Dean Ernst von Weizsäcker (ex officio) until January 2009.
Associate Dean John Melack (ex-officio) until January 2009 then Acting Dean
Assistant to the committee Doris Bleecher

Reviewed and accepted:

[Signatures]
Chris Costello, Professor
Gary Libecap, Professor
Patricia Holden, Professor
Frank Davis, Professor and Chair