

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting

October 6, 2008

President Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., and the traditional motion to adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m. was approved.

Professor Bostrom delivered a memorial minute (attached) for Hugh Townley, late Professor of Visual Arts, and the faculty rose in a standing vote of respect.

Professor Dreier reported on the work of the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC). The FEC has met with the UCS to discuss advising, especially advising at Orientation and sophomore advising. They will continue to review the new Orientation schedule and its effect upon the calendar. They have also met with the Graduate Student Council (GSC) about the structure of graduate student governance. Consideration of the College Curriculum Council (CCC) has been moved up on the calendar following discussions with the Dean of the College, and the FEC will return to CCC matters in the spring. Discussions with Tenure, Promotion and Appointment Committee (TPAC) were directed towards the review of associate professors in rank for more than ten years and the improvement of communication between TPAC and department and promotion committee chairs. Consultation with many other committees suggested the need to review the processes of advisory boards, especially those involving research. In the balance of the year, the FEC will resolve inconsistencies in the grievance process including the lack of an appeals process that resulted from incomplete revision of earlier procedures, although a draft of revised grievance procedures awaits further revision in light of matters of confidentiality and timeliness of response as well as the specific measures appropriate to the Provost's review and ruling on appeals. The FEC will also meet in October with the Board of Fellows to discuss the review of the Plan for Academic Enrichment. It will investigate the review timetable and process for junior faculty in light of a delayed process of approval for external research funding, the forthcoming reorganization of the Department of Neuroscience, and the possibility of the Division of Engineering becoming the School of Engineering. A Faculty Forum is forthcoming on the NEASC review, and the FEC look forward to the release of the report on salaries from the Dean of the Faculty and to his review of retirement benefits.

President Simmons reported on Brown's preparation for and ongoing response to the global economic meltdown, noting that for the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2009, we are on a reasonable, manageable trajectory insofar as the operating budget is concerned. The long-term pool produced a total return of 6.3% for fiscal year 2008. Brown's return was among the top 5-6 endowment returns in the country. In the fiscal year to date, as of the end of August, we were down about 5% and, given the difficult results for September, we expect the results at the end of the first quarter to be even lower. In addition to the work of the planning office under Dick Spies as well as the oversight of the budget and finance process by David Kertzer and Beppie Huidekoper, we have had what often appeared to be an excessively cautious approach to decision making. Our governance changes of several years ago were also meant to prepare us well for such a time. We set up the Academic Priorities Committee to make sure that faculty involvement in priority setting was available in an ongoing and meaningful way. The University Resources Council (URC) was developed with broader community participation to ensure robust oversight from varied segments of the campus in decisions about the ongoing operating budget. The Brown University Community Council (BUCC) was created to have the widest spectrum of

input in regard to the incorporation of broad community values in our decision making. We took into account the possibility that revenue streams could weaken. We have also been paying close attention to risk. Russell Carey's new position as well as a strengthened audit function and committee are signs of the kinds of steps we have been taking to assure ourselves and all of you that the risk parameters in use are fully in keeping with our ability to manage in just such times as these. Last week, a special meeting of the Budget and Finance and Investment Committees of the Corporation met in special session to discuss the overall approach that we should take in regard to the budget and our investments, given the evolving economic and financial pressures and reaffirmed the importance of the Plan for Academic Enrichment and the need to maintain the current course of strengthening the University. They expressed the view that, with prudent adjustments, slowing in some instances our pace, we should be able to continue to make progress toward the Plan's overall goals. For the last 6-9 months, we have been monitoring our liquidity and paying close attention to our financial managers and counterparties with regard to both our assets and our liabilities. We have not encountered some of the short-term disruptions that many colleges and universities have faced. On the other hand, we are not immune to the severe declines in the markets, the rising cost of debt, the potential impact on giving, the real impact on financial aid, and the overall result for our students' families, our employees and their families, and the Providence community. We should expect to see little if any revenue growth in the next year. The URC, which has already begun reviewing budget priorities for next year, are aware that their job will be particularly challenging this year, making FY10 budget recommendations in early December before the final budget recommendations to the Corporation in February. The President signaled the following factors as we move forward in the planning process: Brown's principal focus on its academic and research mission; a strong commitment to support the continued matriculation of student by adhering to our financial aid policies and standards; maintaining a competitive position in our market-based employee compensation program; sustained focus on programs and activities aligned with the Plan for Academic Enrichment; studying all aspects of operations to determine where services and programs could be modified, if necessary, to assure that we can follow through on these priorities; eliminating waste and maximizing our effectiveness in meeting long term goal; maintaining open and respectful communication among all members of our community; taking steps to determine whether there are projects that could be deferred or slowed given uncertainty in capital funding. The President stated that the university is in touch with experts on an ongoing basis, working closely with the Corporation and Chancellor Tisch, and pursuing every avenue to support priorities of the Plan. We will do our best to keep you informed about these developments. She asked for the support of the faculty in these times of great stress for many in our community, asking anyone aware of personal and familial circumstances that require our help to let the appropriate parties know. She announced that Karen Davis and Margaret Klawunn are preparing a communication to the campus pointing out any emergency support available to help students and employees during this time. She commented that many donors have lost assets, and that recent comments by government officials like Ben Bernake may underestimate the dimensions of loss. Professor Silverman asked about changes in investment strategy, and the President replied that discussions were ongoing and that no careful monitoring rather than precipitous change or trying to outguess the direction of the market were indicated. Vice President Huidekoper commented that Cynthia Frost was monitoring the developments of the day as we speak, and that a careful review and planning session was held last spring in anticipation of a decline and the subsequent need for cash liquidity. In response to a question from Mr. Patterson about a change in the shape of the

portfolio, the President suggested sustained prudence rather than overreaction to headlines, and in response to a question about what students at risk were being told, she emphasized our ongoing commitment to need-blind policies and that the Office of Financial Aid is dealing with just such situations from day to day.

Provost Kertzer reported that the Academic Priorities Committee (APC) agenda includes the forthcoming proposal for the reorganization of the department of neuroscience; the proposal for a School of Public Health; the ongoing review of academic programs; studying of the NRC report; and concerns about policies regarding the first year for graduate students. He signaled the good news from Vice President Huidekoper that the University will receive a three million dollar endowment from the Mellon Foundation for work in the humanities.

Dean Bonde presented information about the status of the graduate school noting a rise in applications to over 7,000, continued selectivity at 17%, and current enrollment of 1068 with Ph.D. enrollments recovering from a dip last year. She noted improvement in the tracking system due to Banner and the new dissertation-writing workshop. In response to questions about the need for growth and distribution of students, she provided the breakdown among humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, and biological sciences, noted the status of master's programs, and affirmed the need for growth.

Professor Simmons presented a motion on behalf of the Nominations Committee:

Nominations recommended to the Faculty for committee appointments to be effective immediately:

College Curriculum Council (CCC)

Patrick Malone (Urban Studies) replacing Richard Meckel (American Civilization) to 12/31/08

Rod Beresford (Engineering) replacing Bill Suggs (Chemistry) to 12/31/08

Faculty Equity and Diversity (Committee on)

To 6/30/10:

Peter Shank (MMI), Chair (former member of Committee on Diversity in Hiring)

To 6/30/09:

Shadi Bartsch (Classics)

Marida Hollos (Anthropology)

Conrad Johanson (Clinical Neurosciences/RI Hospital)

Michael Kosterlitz (Physics) (former member of Committee on Diversity in Hiring)

Rhacel Parrenas (American Civilization)

Luiz Valente (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies)

Kenneth Wong (Education)

Alex Zaslavsky (Engineering) (former member of the Faculty Affairs Committee)

Graduate Council

Stephen Gatesy (EEB) replacing Jeffrey Morgan (MPPB) to 6/30/09

The motion carried.

Professor Simmons presented an appeal from the Nominations Committee for faculty members to fill out preference sheets for service and noted forthcoming ballots. Professors Maxey (TPAC), Green (Committee on Diversity in Hiring), Foley (Campus Planning Advisory Board), White (Library Advisory Board), and Cook (Committee on the Status of Women) presented reports for their committees and boards and responded to brief questions. Dean Klawuun reporting for the Campus Life Advisory Board offered a definition of gender neutral housing; and Dean Bergeron provided a summary of CCC actions, noting in particular the execution of two recommendations of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education: a new statement about Liberal Learning at Brown now complete; and a detailed review by the CCC of concentrations now under way. She noted the progress of the Writing Advisory Board in reviewing the Writing Requirement; the enhanced Faculty Advising Program; and the work of the Science Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Merriam Foley
Secretary of the Faculty

Memorial Minute for Hugh Townley (1923-2008)

Professor Hugh Townley taught sculpture and drawing at Brown from 1961-1989.

Professor Townley, who was a printmaker as well as a sculptor, is best known for his wooden relief sculptures inspired by Eastern spiritualism and Native American visual forms, as well as his large outdoor works in concrete, one of which is located on Pembroke campus. These sculptures employ a recurring iconography from nature-trees and fronds, reptiles, animals, human figures and body parts. His wooden relief sculptures consisted of interlocking shapes intricately cut on the band saw. The grain of the wood, which was often of an exotic origin, would inform the designs of the pieces.

Hugh Townley began his schooling in 1945, studying the Fine Arts and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. In 1948 and 1949 he studied in Paris with the Russian sculptor Ossip Zadkine. Townley worked with clay, wood, stone, and bronze under Zadkine's tutelage. In Europe Townley learned much about the art world, and in 1951 he had his first one-person show at the Galerie Appollinaire in London.

In 1955 Townley's works were shown at the MOMA's Penthouse Gallery for New Talent. Of the show a critic wrote that Townley (quote) "was completely original, taking slant from no other artist." Townley went on to have over fifty one-man exhibitions in major museums and galleries in his lifetime. His sculpture is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Fogg Museum of Harvard University, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Rhode Island School of Design, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, the Milwaukee Art Center, and the San Francisco Museum of Art, as well as many other institutional and private collections.

In 1972 Professor Townley received the Rhode Island Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts. During his long career he was also a Resident at Yaddo (1964) and was invited to the Tamarind Institute for Lithography in 1969. In 1967 he was honored by the National Institute of Arts and Letters and in 1980 by the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Boston. His work was included in the National Academy Exhibition in NYC in 2004.

This Fall Hugh Townley will have another solo exhibition, in the Beard and Weil Galleries at Wheaton College. Entitled "Wizard with Wood", it begins this October 30th. The show will include more than one hundred works on paper that he left in his studio when he died, along with reliefs and free-standing sculptures.

Professor Townley taught at Beloit College, Boston University, and Harvard before arriving at Brown in 1961. He is remembered as a challenging and encouraging teacher. Professor Emerita Marlene Malik remembers the still life set-ups in his drawing classes as so elaborate and intricate that they were like sculptures in themselves.

Beth Shadur '75, says that Townley was her mentor both at Brown and after graduation when she pursued art professionally.

“Professor Townley encouraged students to think, create, and truly challenge themselves, and provided me with support in undertaking community-based murals as an independent project outside the immediate Brown community. My ability to move easily into the professional world was due, in part, to his continual support and encouragement.”

Professor Townley was also known for working diligently to help his students get into good graduate programs. After he retired he helped raise money for the Hugh Townley Travel Award, which is awarded to a junior or senior in Visual Art for enrichment of their art education through travel. Applicants must submit a one page written explanation of their proposed travel plans and images of their prior work. Past students have used their awards to study art in Berlin, make a film in India, paint in the Vermont wilderness and to work on a project while hiking the Appalachian trail, among many other journeys.

Accompanied by his overweight and gentle pit bull, Townley was a familiar figure on campus. He worked industriously in his studio in the List Building and distributed his leftover scraps of valuable wood to faculty all over the building to use as door stops and paperweights. He was obsessive about his work and wonderfully productive throughout his lifetime. It was almost a compulsion to produce work and collect things related to his work- for instance, he collected 15 boxes of apple peelers. His vision evolved continually, but his sculpture remained both deeply personal and instantly recognizable. His inventive and individual wit is never far from the surface, and all the works, including his many lithographs and drawings, extend the same invitation exploration and interpretation.

After his retirement from Brown in 1989 he and his late wife (d. 2002) of forty years, the artist and writer Mary Ross Townley, moved to a house on the White River in Bethel, Vermont. He continued to work on his art up until his death in February 2008. His late works were made primarily of plywood, layered to create rhythmical patterns and often painted with bright color. In the last years of his life Townley said, and I quote, “After 58 years of making sculpture I find that it is a pursuit I cannot avoid. I look at it with curiosity. I am frequently surprised by the way it works.”

His work is represented by Big Town Gallery in Rochester, Vermont. He is survived by his son, Merlyn, 44, as well as his companion, Cynthia King.

Madam President, I move that the Faculty adopt this Minute by standing vote of respect, and that the Secretary of the Faculty be instructed to enter the Minute into the permanent records of the Faculty and to send copies of it to members of the immediate family.

