Members of the DEC have recently become concerned about the divisional representation on the committee. As is true in many committees, we want to ensure continuity of membership from year to year. Even more importantly, however, we are concerned about the composition of the committee. There has been, for example, no representative from the Division of the Fine and Performing Arts in either of the last two years, and the current election guidelines do not ensure representation for this or any other division in years to come. The current guidelines also do not ensure representation for both tenured and non-tenured faculty on the committee. Given the fact that development and evaluation concerns no doubt vary somewhat from one division to another, and between tenured and non-tenured faculty, we feel that this state of affairs is unfortunate. Thus, to better reflect and serve the interests of the faculty, as well as ensure equitable divisional representation, continuity, and productivity on the DEC, the committee proposes the following change to the language describing the composition of the DEC:

“The Development and Evaluation Committee (DEC) is composed of five faculty members, all elected from among the faculty. Each division has one tenured representative, elected for a three-year term; terms are staggered across divisions. Each year an additional representative is also elected to represent the non-tenured faculty and librarians; this representative serves a one-year term.”

This is a change from the phrasing in the current handbook, which says:

“The Development and Evaluation Committee (DEC) is composed of five faculty members, three of whom are elected for staggered two-year terms; the remaining members are appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean and the President.”

Obviously some special arrangements will have to be made for the elections in the spring of 2006. One possibility is that John Tures could continue into his second year of his elected two-year term as the representative from the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences (if that division will waive the requirement that their representative be tenured for this one year) and Susan Cody could continue into her second year of her elected two-year term as the representative for non-tenured faculty. Representatives for the Division of Professional Programs, the Division of Science and Mathematics, and the Division of Fine and Performing Arts would be needed to elect members, at least one for a two-year term and at least one for a three-year term.

If you have questions or concerns about this proposal, please feel free to raise them with any current member of the DEC (i.e., Susan Cody, Heather Haas, Celia Hay, Fay Riddle, or John Tures). If you have concerns, or spot a flaw we’ve overlooked, we will attempt to address those issues before we present the recommendation for a vote. If no concerns are expressed, we plan to present this proposal for a vote at the next faculty meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.