New Executive Committee

The RIC/AFT Nominating Committee has completed its work: a slate of candidates for the five at-large positions on the Executive Committee, 2004, has been assembled. Five candidates agreed to run for the one-year term. A membership meeting was held on Dec. 15, for nominations from the floor: none was made. The slate of five candidates for the five seats is therefore elected:

Shani Carter (Management and Technology)
Joan Dagle (English)
Peter Glanz (Physical Science)
Richard Olmsted (Philosophy)
Dan Weisman (Social Work)

Completing their two-year terms in 2004 are the four officers:
Jason L. Blank, President (Sociology)
Robert Cvornyek, Vice President (History)
Crist Costa, Treasurer (Accounting and CIS)
Betty Ruggiero, Secretary (HBS)

The tenth member of the Executive Committee is Ed McDowell (Math and Computer Science), who was elected by the Assembly of Departmental Representatives.

Retiring from Executive Committee is Lisa Owens (Elementary Education), who served for two years and will be missed.

We want to thank the Nominating Committee for recruiting the slate and for attempting to recruit new members to the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee was chaired by Carol Shelton (Nursing) and included Dena Janson (Library) and Randy DeSimone (Management and Technology).

Although the annual process of composing the Union’s leadership team is concluded, we need to keep in mind that everyone will need to be involved in issues that are scheduled to come before us in 2004. Most important is the new Contract, which will be negotiated in a climate of state attacks on working people, especially through their unions.
Annual Evaluations

Annual evaluations play a critical role in tenure and promotion recommendations. They also provide faculty members with valuable feedback about their teaching, scholarship and service. Please review Article VIII (Pages 18-26) of the Agreement for procedures and criteria which should guide the annual evaluation process. If you believe that any criterion of Article VIII may have been violated, please contact the RIC/AFT office (ext. 9842). All communications are always kept confidential.

Contract: 2003-2004

Established ground rules do not allow us to publish details of the current negotiations process. We can say that we offered the BoG a set of proposals on Dec. 1, covering salaries, benefits and conditions of employment. Those proposals became the basis for discussions that will continue on Dec. 18. We are as desirous for a settlement as any other participants in the process, but we will not accept a Contract which is not equitable and does not recognize our professional and committed status. As soon as we have a Tentative Agreement, we will call membership meetings and conduct a ratification election.

Announcements

The 8th Annual Faculty Development Workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 14, at the Faculty Center. To register, email Pierre Morenon (pmorenon@ric.edu).

The first meeting of the 2004 Assembly of Departmental Representatives will be Wednesday, Jan. 28, 12:30-2 PM in Craig-Lee 201. The major topic will be the Thorp Award. Vice President Dan King will attend.

I am proud to report that due to our efforts, every faculty member who applied for medical reimbursements received the maximum allowable under our settlement with the BoG.

Jason L. Blank, President

Comments on the Executive Committee Election

By Dan Weisman

I have just been “reelected” to the Executive Committee, in part because only five candidates could be recruited for the five open seats. This is the second consecutive year that no competitive election has been held. I have been a member of the Executive Committee for the last 12 years, and 18 of the last 19 years (stepping off only for an out-of-town sabbatical in 1991). I appreciate my colleagues’ confidence, as well as being part of the Executive Committee’s work, but at some point it may be in the best interest of any organization to rotate its leadership.

In my other lives, I’ve been part of several social and political organizations, where a well-accepted guiding principle is that board of directors’ terms are limited, so long-serving leaders must step aside at least periodically (possibly to return after a brief absence) so that the organization preserves its vibrancy. I, and a few other long-serving members of the Executive Committee, would welcome the opportunity for others to take their turns. I strongly believe the Union would benefit. But when only five people come forward each year, I for one am compelled to put my name on the ballot. I have encouraged colleagues in my department to run, as well as others with whom I interact. I sincerely ask all RIC/AFT members to consider running next year.

Meanwhile, I will serve my new (and hopefully last for at least a while) term to the fullest of my ability. I join Jason in urging everyone to come back from Winter Break ready for a challenging year.