

**Faculty Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, October 19, 2007**

**Present:**

- The Lary Opitz quest

- Service can be a political minefield best avoided.

Paty: How can FEC address the “new service” problem? Susan W. said that the FEC initiative can help. We should learn what “service” is becoming and broaden the definition. We need to lessen the “tenure-anxiety” culture. “We cannot run Skidmore on martyrdom.”

Susan W. suggested that FEC’s anticipated “data gathering” project may be less valuable than talking about service in new ways. She asked: “Can we make this a pleasant workplace, somehow? Then people will want to do the work.” It was observed that a lighter teaching load will help a lot.

We should seek a philosophical shift, and ask: “How can we operationalize excellence?” We need to make sure that we are “counting” the right things, e.g., old prejudices against applied work or joint authorship should be rethought. A generational shift is underway that we need to accommodate.

Susan B. observed that recent CAPTs have in fact been willing to consider a wide range