

Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes 12/06/10
DRAFT

Present: Seth Asumah, Robert Darling, Peter Ducey, Lori Ellis, Christopher Gascon, Isa Jubran, Matthew Lessig, Bruce Mattingly, David Neal, Jerome O'Callaghan, Judith Ouellette, Gregory Phelan, William Skipper, Brice Smith, Robert Spitzer, Sharon Steadman, Randi Storch, Paul van der Veur, German Zarate, Ibipo Johnston-Anumnowo for Scott Anderson.

Absent: Scott Anderson, Kathryn Russell

Guest: Scott Moranda

Scott Moranda for the Cultural and Intellectual Climate Committee (CIC): introducing the idea of a common - read proposal; CIC devoted to engaging students and raising the academic profile. The budget is much reduced so no international speaker this year.

Common – Read idea is still being debated. The structure is explained.

One question concerns the cost of books. Oswego has done this recently. There is a question of how much faculty will participate if the book is not part of a syllabus. Scott is looking for feedback.

The CIC is still researching the outside funding issue.

Ideas: talk to advising. Maybe scale this down to a scholarly article, not a book; zero cost. The Gallery is interested in coordination but it needs early notice. Add something to COR 101 as another activity. Maybe INT 129 for one credit S/U. How about something for juniors/seniors instead – a higher level of discourse. Leadership house has done a reading course for one credit in INT 129.

Student skepticism is likely.

-It's important for students to see faculty engage in discussion. Getting faculty to use syllabi to encourage engagement is key.

- Informal tie to Scholars' Day; maybe prizes for a panel on this topic.

Bruce Mattingly: This is where the rubber hits the road. We need to maintain the commitment.

Associate Dean's Report:

-Reminder regarding the Alpha Delta process – deadline in early spring.

Personnel:

9 out of 15 new searches going to Arts & Sciences. New searches have been approved recently for English, History and Biology. The Provost is looking at empty full time lecturer slots: perhaps replacing those with "instructors." "Instructor" is tenure track, 4/4 load, scholarship expected and service, too. Same salary as full time lecturer. Expect that scholarship and service would be different from Assistant Professor. Eligible to serve on committee. "Instructor" does not require terminal degree. If they get a terminal degree, they can seek promotion to Assistant Professor.

Chairs have expressed concerns with this idea already. No decision has been made yet with the Provost.

Pros: department work, increase advisors. Tenure is attractive to full time lecturers. The risk of denial of tenure exists.

Concerns: Two tier system of faculty. Twelve hour load and other expectations are anomalous. Measuring those expectations is tough.

Isa Jubran, Math – do we have a full time lecturer? We were told that position was going away.

Bruce Mattingly: That changed later. Departments sustained those lines after changes in personnel. It's up to departments to choose if a full time lecturer is appropriate for their needs.

Isa Jubran: Math has a need for two more Assistant Professors. The instructor option does not help us. I expect it will create problems in the two tiers.

David Neal: It is an improvement for full time lecturers. What if an existing full time lecturer wants to convert to "instructor"?

Bruce Mattingly: This has not yet been discussed. It may be possible. Right now there are fifty-two (52) vacancies including full time lecturers and tenure tracks. Probably half will be filled this year. Not likely to see adjuncts converted to full time lecturers.

Randi Storch: There is a max of full time lecturers per department, as a ratio. If there are more instructors, it's not necessary for a gain toward FT tenure track. The search process – national or not?

Bruce Mattingly: There is no push on the part of the Provost to push full time lecturers and instructors on a department that does not want them.

Chris Gascon: Modern Languages is opposed for reasons already stated. Would the tenure clock be the same? (Yes) No advance is possible if they don't go for Assistant Professor.

Matt Lessig: Why not hire an Assistant Professor as well? Lines are affected by promotions of instructors. It could negatively affect the department.

It's not helpful regarding the national reputation of faculty we hire.

Judy Ouellette: Concern regarding *clear* expectation from Administration regarding service and scholarship.

Peter Ducey: What's the time frame?

Bruce: No particular deadline; no rush. Ongoing discussion with the Provost.

Robert Darling: Could our Instructor get promoted to Assistant Professor before tenure? Also, will instructor count as prior service?

Answer: Yes to the promotion question.

Question: "4 classes" – is that fixed? Yes.

Question: Why do full time lecturers need to move to instructor?

- risk of tenure, greater expectations regarding service
- not much of an incentive for some.

Question: Do we want collective feedback?

Answer: Bruce Mattingly will take these comments to the Provost.

Isa Jubran: With the latter, an instructor position does not serve as well now.

Paul van der Veur: In the future, when you ask for a new hire the instructor will be counted against you.

Robert Spitzer: The key is offering the choice/discretion to go from full time lecturer to instructor. Looks good that way.

New Business:

Summer 2011: new “no cancel” policy, i.e. faculty agree in advance to teach prorated, if need be. The goal is to make the schedule reliable. Still obliged to arrange classes that are likely to enroll well. A small % of proposals look unlikely to be approved due to past history.

Fall 2011 Scheduling – one wing of Bowers is out. Dowd will be down after September 2012. Classrooms will be tight from Fall 2011. There is pressure on flattening the schedule. There are too many peaks and valleys right now. Real serious effort is needed on all our parts to fix this. Ultimately, the Dean has to enforce this. Tech room allocations are relevant to this decision. Those who do the best regarding flattening the schedule, would have priority regarding the tech room.

Question: Seventy-five minute classes on Monday, Wednesday need more attention, or Wednesday/Fridays or Monday/Fridays.

Question: Reducing the gap time to fifteen minutes on Monday/Wednesday/Fridays would open up a new time slot.

Software solution? Amy Berg is looking into it. She is awaiting a committee recommendation.

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