

## Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes January 26, 2009

**Members Present:** K. Alwes, S. Anderson, G. Bhat, C. Cirimo, P. Ducey, I. Jubran (for G. Feissner), C. Heasley, S. Asumah, R. Kendrick, M. King, B. Mattingly, J. O'Callaghan, T. Phillips, R. Ponterio, K. Russell, B. Smith, R. Spitzer, S. Steadman, P. van der Veur.

**Guest:** Nancy Aumann, Associate Provost; Kathy Lattimore (English).

Nancy Aumann and Kathy Lattimore introduced a new tutoring option: writing technology that features a whiteboard and instant messaging. We have moved from a pilot last year to full blown access via whiteboard space for use by faculty and/or students. This is independent of Blackboard, Banner etc. ASAP provides tutoring via this space and hours of tutoring are extended to midnight. (Professional tutors work during regular office hours and student tutors do the late evening work.) Supported financially by the Provost. Useful for faculty collaboration, particularly over large distances. Temporary arrangement to see how it will be used. Those who wish to learn more should contact Kathy Lattimore, Jennifer Drake or Teri Vigers.

Nancy Aumann distributed a handout on the Writing Fellows program. Funding for this program is now uncertain.

### **Announcements**

- ~ Course retirement decisions – deadline 2/9
- New Chair in the Chemistry Department, Gregory Phelan, will join us soon.
- ~ Conversations in the Disciplines coming up at Monroe CC in March, on the topic of Celtic Culture and Identity.
- ~ President's council is expecting to hear on a new Chancellor – soon!
- ~ NCATE review is officially postponed for one year.
- ~ College is pleased to announce our ranking in the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement. Recognized for our curricular commitment and community involvement. R. Kendrick expressed appreciation for the many faculty and staff that assisted in this achievement. This is a great aid to us in seeking external support.
- ~ Speaker coming to campus -- Professor Appiah on 2/4. Book chat being organized by Philosophy Department – all faculty welcome.
- Black History Month – detailed list of announcements coming soon.
- ~ December 1 is the deadline for Teaching Awards nominations (Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Distinguished Teaching Professor).
- ~ Faculty Research Program – deadline 2/6.

### **Associate Dean's Report:**

- Upcoming Sandwich Seminar on curriculum – 1/28/09.
- Add/drop deadline coming soon.
- WebCT v.6 server is coming to an end. Faculty with course data/material on this server should contact ACS immediately.
- Alpha Delta nominees expected by 2/9 to Associate Dean. Printouts coming shortly to the departments.

- Catalog review periods – two this year. For chairs 2/20 is the end of period I, and May 4 is end of period II.
- Curriculum committee deadlines: 4/1 for school committees, 5/1 for CCRC and GFEC and 5/15 for the Provost. This should ensure a new catalog in place for summer advising.

## Personnel

The hiring freeze is still on. Only 5 faculty searches (college-wide) cleared to continue: 2 in Literacy, 2 in Speech Pathology, and 1 in Social Studies. All remaining searches are on hold. It is problematic to let the “on hold” status linger much longer. The time will come when we have to re-advertise.

## Facilities

The new Education Building is now open and its title is officially the “Education Building”. Some work continues as people move in. The Sociology Department has moved to the new wing in Moffett – again some work continues.

The Bowers and Student Life Center projects are now going into the design phase.

Planning for the renovation of Dowd, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors is going ahead. The future might look good for construction – apparently “shovel ready” projects are needed in the context of state/federal economic stimuli.

## Budget

No new information.

## Curriculum

The Archeology proposal has not yet left campus for state approval.

## New Business

- **Strategic Planning** The old Academic Affairs SP was lengthy and unclear on focus. Deans and others have been asked by the Provost to identify 4 or 5 goals, based on feedback from their constituencies. Careful discussion is needed before responding to this request.

C. Cirimo reminded the group of his presentation on LRP/SP at the Joint Chairs meeting in fall.

Per Cirimo mission statement review is ongoing. The plan is to finalize a concise mission statement from which a *vision statement* and *core values* will emerge. The goal is to have the new mission statement approved by late February 2009. The Long Range Planning committee will act on the priorities set in the mission statement.

Per S. Anderson – given the iffy budget situation, is there a point to doing this?

Responses: some of this has to be done, and should be done, in a vacuum anyway. Priorities need to be there to guide us in how we spend the budget (lean years and otherwise). It’s also important to external constituencies that we have clear mission goals.

Per K. Russell – getting to priorities that need to be identified, one that matters is improving the gender climate on campus. This goes beyond the diversity label. There is a women’s faculty caucus and we have a campus with more women than men on it.

Per S. Asumah – priorities should include continuing to address faculty diversity.

Per S. Anderson – another priority is finding balance or parity in department sizes. Some departments have small faculties (e.g., GRY and PHI) – what can be done about that?

Per B. Mattingly – faculty lines are better seen as a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

C. Cirimo – Priorities today should not be the focus. To assess department sizes, you ask what resources are needed when you have to offer the major to one student? The rest is driven by enrollment.

S. Steadman – SUNY Cortland has not explored interdisciplinary faculty properly – it could be more effective. (E.g. Africana Studies is only one person – needs backing up.) There is more to it than just the number of majors.

R. Kendrick – exploring interdisciplinary appointments is worthwhile – the key is the quality of education--increasing faculty is not an end in itself--we need to reduce the number of adjunct-taught courses.

K. Alwes – current Mission Statement (M.S.) covers all that needs to be done. Strategic Planning is the method of achieving the mission.

S. Steadman – Lack of resources (specifically faculty) re: Middle East.

R. Kendrick – The *core values* approach is not new, it was used by E. Davis-Russell early on in her tenure.

K. Russell – looking at the world through the lens of competing interests is part of the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome O’Callaghan

Associate Dean

2/3/09