

ARTS AND SCIENCES CHAIRS' COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 3/31/08

Members Present: K. Alwes, S. Anderson, S. Asumah, G. Bhat, C. Cirimo, R. Darling, L. Ellis, L. Gatto, R. Kendrick, M. King, B. Mattingly, J. O'Callaghan, T. Phillips, R. Ponterio, K. Russell, S. Steadman, H. Steck, P. van der Veur, R. Wheeler

Guest: T. Cahill, Director of the College Store

T. Cahill:

The number one issue is the cost of textbooks. The cost is rising faster than inflation. Cost to the student is \$450 – 500 per semester on average for textbooks. It is a national problem. The College Store's goal is to reduce costs as much as possible. Requisition date is very important to the College Store. It has a huge impact on buyback.

Today is the due date for fall – the bookstore expects about a high 30% compliance rate. Incidentals such as CDs etc will raise the price. There are several suggestions for how faculty can help: early ordering, multi year adoptions, department decisions on textbooks for multiple sections.

Discussion – Terry will get back to us regarding the signature line in online requisition--is a hard copy signature still required?

Announcements

- Last of the Provost's Open Meetings this Friday, 4/4/08
Re: Quantitative Skills
Looking to establish a Quantitative Skills Committee

- Scholars Day – 4/9/08
- April 17 – 4:30 p.m. – NY Times Architecture critic on Green Building
- *Tommy* has opened
- 5/20 – 5/22/08 - Fifth year for Summer Institute on Diversity
Grants for infusion into the curriculum - \$500
- 6/9 – 6/11/08 - Summer Ethics Institution – Three full days this year - \$500 stipend

Associate Dean's Report

Catalog Review period coming up. There are two major reviews, one in April and one after finals.

A&S Curriculum has traditionally had a fall election, this year we will move the election to spring so that the committee can get a head start in fall 2008.

An online survey will be announced shortly from the ACE group on the topic of internationalization. The focus in this survey is setting priorities for learning outcomes appropriate for global competenc.

Graduation checklists have been arriving on schedule and our office is reviewing them as quickly as possible.

Budget

State Budget Consequences

- State Budget may be on time
- Vice President for Finance and Management Shaut is expecting a cut of \$1.2 million (a direct cut), plus a loss of interest income, and an energy savings requirement.
- Expect this to get worse -- at least \$1.6 million
- Not clear if that will affect searches

Personnel

Searches

15 new searches for new faculty this year

- 8 resulted in new hires
- 2 failed
- 5 ongoing: Physics (3), Art (1), and Chemistry (1)

History has vacancies for M. Cassis, F. Czerwinski, and the resignation of R. Reinhard.

Economics has the resignation of J. Frank.

Personnel Committee should continue to evaluate all candidates unless there is an official resignation.

Others:

Dean of Professional Studies – R. Olsson is going to Health Sciences at Grand Valley State College in Michigan.

Y. Murnane – Dean of Graduate Studies at Winthrop, South Carolina

Chairs:

L. Ellis will continue in Art

Chemistry hopes to hire a new chair

R. Spitzer in Political Science

D. Neal in Performing Arts

B. Smith in Physics

Chairs' Stipend will increase 20% across the board

Curriculum

GE Committee – review of Natural Sciences categories is being conducted now
Departments need to explain the connection to category learning outcomes.

Facilities

Meeting with Architect, Burt-Hill regarding Bowers – proceeding quickly– (9 different schemes presented

Hope to conclude contract in 8/08. Another year for design. Construction to start in 12/09.

Cornish work is going well and may end in 1/09. Quick turnover for Education folks.

Old Main Windows – 8/08 may be finished

Summer 08 – Asbestos abatement in Moffett – total vacation except for Prof. Berger -- all others will go to Whitaker for summer.

Asbestos abatement in Dowd – no news

Cortland has received Capital Budget \$86m over 5 years (double our past allotment).

May include Bowers, Dowd, and second phase of Moffett

Big Unknown – Student Life Center – still is in budget proposal, on top of \$87 million.

LAST: Energy Savings Issues

Yes, we had good energy savings this winter

System Administration had allocated \$ to campuses

- some of that \$ was returned by campuses and some not used as expected and has to be returned. No more supplements coming.
- System has mandated energy reduction – significant target = 37% below 1990 level plus an emphasis on using renewable sources.
- New buildings are to be “LEED” certified at silver level.
- Ideas suggested to help in this goal: as an experiment - turn off everything in a building and see its impact on electricity use; reduce bus schedule to avoid the sight of empty buses on their routes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome O’Callaghan

5/15/08