

**ARTS AND SCIENCES CHAIRS' COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2006**

Members Present: M. Prus, K. Alwes, S. Asumah, C. Cirimo, L. Ellis, L. Gatto, S. Gutman, H. Haines, N. Helsper, M. King, B. Mattingly, D. Miller, J. O'Callaghan, T. Pasquarello, T. Phillips, K. Russell, S. Steadman H. Steck, P. van der Veur, R. Wheeler, K. Zimmerman, A. Zipp

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by M. Prus.

Announcements

The student teaching supervision issue has not been resolved. A meeting with the Provost will take place on September 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Miller 405.

The Dean will be out of the office from Tuesday through Friday next week. In addition, he will be out of the office from September 13 until September 25.

The African-American Studies Department needs a list of cross listed courses for Spring 07.

Draft of a "Study Days" statement was discussed and suggestions were made for improvement. A new draft will be circulated.

Associate Dean's Report

Please send any outstanding August checklists to the Associate Dean.

Health Services does not send notes for absences that consist of one or two days. They will, however, send notes for longer medical absences.

There is a new revised documents page on the Arts and Sciences web site.

All room change requests must go through the Dean's Office first. However, chairs should be in the loop. As usual there are no rooms available at any time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are a few rooms available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Next fall ICC will offer an ESL 129 course for international students with English language issues.

A new version of WebCT (6.0) will be arriving on campus in January 2007. A survey of the "gradebook" function is coming soon. WebCT 4 has great utility for those faculty

using scantrons (easy import into the gradebook). Increased use of gradebook is part of the strategic plan regarding early warnings for students with academic difficulties.

Facilities

Ground breaking for the new Education Building will take place in December or January. The next phase will include the renovation of Cornish. At that time, Sociology will move to Moffett. The renovation of Moffett will occur in three or four phases. The first phase has been funded, the other phases have not.

Funds totaling \$20 million have been approved to “renovate a Science Building”. The money may be used at the discretion of the College. So, perhaps a third wing might be added. Architects have not been hired yet for this project. The science faculty will be consulted regarding the plans for the renovation.

The original plan for the windows in Old Main was to complete minor changes and replace the storm windows. Now the New York State Historical Preservation Office will allow new windows to be installed in the building. The work can be done off site. A new bidding process has begun.

A question arose about whether the new building space will raise a goal of attracting more students. Per the Dean this will not be the case since the SUNY construction fund monitors class room space carefully and demographics predict that student population will taper off during the next five years. Graduate enrollment is declining in the College, but Arts and Sciences graduate programs are enjoying new growth.

Regarding Moffett, the needs assessment process has begun. Sociology has begun the process. Other departments, Psychology, Economics, Mathematics, Political Science and Geography will be invited to participate. Art has not been invited since it is not clear that Moffett would be a good fit.

Budget

This year’s budget is better than any of those approved over the last 20 years. Money from the state are up from \$45 million to \$49 million this year.

Academic Affairs has seen an increase from \$27 million to \$30 million. Overspending in Academic Affairs was \$800,000 last year. So the real increase in Academic Affairs budget is \$2 million. Most of that is committed to salary increases and new positions filled this year. This last year Arts and Sciences had 12 (10 replacements and two new) tenure track positions. This year two new faculty lines are funded for Communication Studies and Economic departments. The era of budget “decentralization” is over. Now that it is centralized, the President’s Cabinet will play a role. VPFM has core values that respect the academic mission of the College. Discussion centered on the pros/cons of centralization in budget. The budget system has not been working well and needs to be fixed. The graduate program deficit is tied in part to online competition.

Personnel

DSI – According to the President, an additional 1% increase on top of DSI will be available to everyone. This may also be offered to new faculty. In addition there is a 3% increase per the UUP contract which is expiring, and then DSI – up to 50% for inequity and at least 50% on merit plus an \$800 addition to base. \$100,000 in Spring distribution is inequity-related, but not DSI.

Merit DSI - October 2 is the deadline for the Dean's recommendation to the Provost, then 10 calendar days to appeal.

The Arts and Sciences Alumni Advisory Council – The preliminary phase of their meeting is scheduled for October 28.

Advisement – Advisement and Transition currently have 150 Premajors that need advisors. Chairs will be asked to find volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry O'Callaghan