

ARTS AND SCIENCES CHAIRS' COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

10/8/07

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

Guest: D. Driscoll for B. Mattingly

Announcements

- Alteration Project Requests --The deadline to the Dean was Friday, October 5.
 - However, those requests are still being accepted.
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training -- deadline today, Oct. 8
 - Discussion ensued about the Executive Order regarding Sexual Harassment, obligations on the head of each department and the expectation that "all employees" will receive the training. Objection made to anti-labor law from conducting the training. It is agreed that conflict with the class will be a reason not to attend
- Brooks dedicated teachers award: deadline soon
- Special Exam requests - deadline soon
- Sabbatical Leave requests – deadline soon
- Marketing committee - new campaign will be launched soon
- Magna sponsored Webinar on chair's role in fostering collegiality
- SCAP – deadline soon
- AASCU – Global Scholars Program - Handouts distributed regarding student scholarships

Associate Dean Report

• update on recent actions of curriculum committees. Discussion ensued on the charge given to the CCRC regarding special topics (x29) courses. Two questions presented to the CCRC -- should x29 courses be allowed to fulfill major requirements, and should x29 be allowed to carry attributed such as GE, LAS, WI etc.? Unanimous vote of Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council in favor of answering yes to both questions.

Further discussion points:

Pilot courses really need an attribute to draw students.

X29 courses are approved on rare occasions for GE credit

CCRC should know that special topics in HIS are always LAS

Suggested that the limit of 3 times on x29 courses is too few - how about 5 times?

Suggested that designations should be made at the discretion of the chair offering it

Also suggest that a catalog use a paragraph numbering system to make citing the catalog easier.

Facilities

- Strong support for a Capital budget in next year's state budget. Likely to mean \$100m plus for Cortland. Will that include special projects? – not yet clear.
- Old Main windows: Your continued patience is much appreciated. Quick progress being made right now.

Personnel

- Provost's DSI letters just distributed. There were 27 appeals in A&S, 11 decisions overturned and 16 not overturned.

Budget

- No particular news there. Academic Equipment Replacement requests, amount available not definite yet, nevertheless chairs should get them in soon.

Curriculum

- P. Francis is leaving System Administration for SUNY Oneonta
- P. Francis had comments on our GE assessment
- Review at System now -- no approval yet for our Strength Campus Based Assessment Plan. We had said we would use GE 7 (aka GE 12) for critical thinking assessment. Heavy preponderance of juniors and seniors in those classes. As long as that is true, then System is OK with that approach.
- Per P. Francis – the GEAR group hesitant regarding GE assessment where assigned credit is not required. Our evidence showed no statistical difference between requiring credit and no credit. We don't necessarily need a generic assessment that crosses all across the courses in the category. Chairs need to talk to departments about assessment in light of P. Francis' comments

Special Topics

I. External Review

- Question: Is this a train wreck? The administration failed to define the impact of this decision (e.g. Incredible problems regarding tenure timeline).
- M. Prus – Memorandum of Understanding is explicit about commitment to use external review at promotion to full professor. Very little enforcement in Memorandum of Understanding.
- Comment: Per the recent meeting with the Provost and the President, this will be pushed into other levels of review
- M. Prus – when applied at the full professor level -- it is not a large workload. Few promotions to full professor in Arts and Sciences. Few in any one

department. One single process for the college is preferable to twenty different procedures - coming up with a reasonable process is key. Job of evaluators and access to letters should be carefully defined

- Comment: Faculty governance at the department level. Should be allowed, so letters each department chooses. Maximize department autonomy – allow peer review of journal articles to count. Faculty want departmental autonomy

II. DSI Criteria

- Sample distributed from M. Prus. Meeting with Deans and Human Resources and President is coming up. Recall that per handbook the President is required to identify the criteria for DSI in advance – the handout is one possible approach to this. The point system is open to suggestions -- contact M. Prus.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome O'Callaghan