

# ARTS AND SCIENCES CHAIRS' COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## 10/23/06

**Members Present:** M. Prus, K. Alwes, S. Asumah, C. Cirimo, L. Ellis, L. Gatto, 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, W. Sharp for S. Gutman

M. Prus called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

### I. Announcements

The Arts and Sciences Alumni Advisory Council meeting will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28. Four Council members will be attending the meeting. The meeting agenda has been distributed.

SUNY Provost Palme's office has called for participation for the CIT Conference which will be held at SUNY Plattsburgh from 5/29 – 6/1/07.

Summer Research Fellowship applications are due today.

A Regional Consortium in CNY has announced that the deadline for proposals for their Peace Conference, which will be held at SUNY Cortland on 11/18/06, are due on Wednesday, 10/25/06.

International Education Week will be held from 11/13 – 11/18/06. The keynote speech will be given on 11/13/06 by Professor Greenwood from Cornell.

*Pippin* opens this weekend. The preview will be on Thursday. The play repeats next weekend.

Mid semester grade estimates – last chance for submission is today.

### II. Grad Studies

A resolution from the English Department has been made seeking discussion about the creation of a graduate school on campus. The Department believes that the issue has not been widely and openly discussed on campus. M. Prus explained that this item has been in Academic Affairs' Strategic Planning Committee for over a year-- the focus has been on *considering* the creation of a school of Graduate Studies.

Questions were raised: Is there a process, is this a plan and when will the campus get to comment? M. Prus responded that there isn't a formal process for doing this -- it did come up at a prior Joint Chairs' meeting. It looks like the proposal is not a done deal; problem of finding substantial support on campus. Academic Affairs Restructuring Report addresses this issue too. Question raised: What is the

mechanism that is needed to involve faculty? Should a poll of the faculty be taken? Suggested that the faculty should come out more strongly against the School of Graduate Studies proposal as the College is strapped for resources already, etc. Should the faculty wait for a dialog before opposing it? The Chemistry Department has been surveyed and the unanimous feeling is one of opposition to it, again the problem of resources being stretched. (Will the cost be that much? -- people are already in place and the office exists, too.) Is the pupose of the proposal a way to undo a negative trend in graduate enrollment? There is too much conjecture on this with no real pros and cons out there. Given the fear of budget cuts, the chairs want to hesitate on this issue. The Biology Department wants more dialog, too, according to their department survey. The chairs expressed widespread concern regarding the lack of campus dialog on this issue. Student applications are not in fact likely to be affected by the label change from “office” to “school”.

Motion – was made by the chairs to accept the English Department resolution as amended. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor of adopting the resolution as amended (text in blue).

*WHEREAS, SUNY Cortland’s Academic Affairs Strategic Plan (2005-2010), Goal VI, calls for the development of a “fourth school,” a “School of Graduate Studies”;*

*And WHEREAS, no public dialogue with faculty members as a whole has taken place about said proposal, be it in public forums, the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee, the annual Opening Convocation, the Faculty Senate, or in informational hearings;*

*And WHEREAS, the proposal calls for a major reconfiguration of staff in the Graduate Studies Office, including the creation of a Dean and an Associate Dean;*

*And WHEREAS, the creation of a fourth school would have a significant and profound impact on departments, faculty members, and graduate students;*

*And WHEREAS, the impetus behind, and the rationale for, the proposed fourth school have been made neither clear nor even public;*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the [Arts and Sciences Chairs Council](#) opposes, on principle, the proposal for, and the [further planning of](#), a School of Graduate Studies, without open, candid, and ongoing dialogue between faculty, staff, and administration.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said dialogue, including open debate and discussion of rationale, goals, and objectives, is vital to the mission of any public institution of higher learning.*

### **III. GE Assessment**

A proposal has been sent to the Faculty Senate. The Sub Committee Report has been distributed to the Chair’s Council. The reevaluation of the data revealed that two of five categories supported the idea that granting credit for the assessment makes a difference. Conversely three of five do not. The sub committee will propose using GE 7 for assessment of Critical Thinking category. There appears to be no significant

difference in GE 7 between granting credit and no credit for the assessment exercise. This report is going to Faculty Senate. Please encourage the Faculty Senate to support this.

#### **IV. Latest Rendition of the Student Opinion Survey**

The highlights were distributed.

Provost is concerned regarding some lower than expected ratings (& rankings) in the areas of Quality of Instruction, Critical Thinking, Faculty preparedness and communication.

Much ambiguity in the data, particularly when you look at means and statistically significant differences. Statistically not a lot to infer.

Advisement appears to have improved.

Question raised: is raw data on SUNY in general returned to OIRA? M. Prus will look into this. Serious questions raised about validity and reliability of data

Are there real consequences to the SOS results? Not really -- perhaps better to ignore it?

#### **V. Budget**

The fall meeting of SUNY Presidents – Budget update – SUNY says 10-15% cut likely soon. Chancellor will be lobbying hard.

#### **VI. Facilities**

Discussion continues regarding the renovation of Moffett. Rumors are not accurate about who is moving. SOC and ANT are the only certain departments going to Moffett.

Bowers money has not been made available, so the bidding process has not begun.

#### **VII. Curriculum**

Faculty Senate: Curriculum Change proposal is up for a vote, also included will be a proposal regarding the retirement of classes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerome O'Callaghan

