

Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes November 3, 2008

Members Present: K. Alwes, S. Anderson, G. Bhat, C. Cirimo, P. Ducey, G. Feissner, C. Heasley, S. Kelley, R. Kendrick, M. King, B. Mattingly, D. Neal, J. O'Callaghan, T. Phillips, R. Ponterio, K. Russell, B. Smith, R. Spitzer, S. Steadman, P. van der Veur.

Guest: Andrew Mount, Director, Dowd Fine Arts Center Gallery

Bruce Mattingly invited Andrew Mount to speak about the Gallery. It is important to have Arts and Sciences departments collaborate, and this venue is ideal. Thanks to Andrew for the invitation.

Andrew commented that the Gallery is a great space for departments to hold meetings for any purpose. The more you visit, the more you will be intrigued. The current exhibit is remarkably accessible, and the range of subjects on the wall is immense. Don't hesitate to contact Andrew.

The faculty show opens November 14. In February, "Erasing Borders" (from Asia) will open.

Announcements

- ~ IDA application deadline is today at 4 p.m. (November 3)
- ~ November 5 Sandwich Seminar regarding 2008 elections with Political Science Department.
- ~ Election Results event on November 5 in Sperry 105 – free with refreshments.
- ~ Election night event with NYPIRG in Gallery.
- ~ November 6 Community Roundtable topic is Sustainable Energy.
- ~ November 10 is the Fall Open House.
- ~ November 24 is the Professional Development Workshop for Chairs; session topic is *Budget*.
- ~ December 1 is the deadline for Teaching Awards nominations (Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Distinguished Teaching Professor).
- ~ Open House issue of announcements is being resolved. Note as the day sometimes falls on a holiday, it makes it difficult to find an office open for copying and other needs.
- ~ Sam Kelley thanked all for their support of the Gospel Choir Festival. There was good community support as well.

Personnel

James Starzec, Psychology, will be retiring in January.

The hiring freeze is still on—still in limbo. No cancelled searches yet. Currently we have searches in ECO (1), BIO (1), CHE (2), COM (1), HIS (3). Collecting applications is acceptable, but there is no travel money for going to conferences. Erik Bitterbaum stated that an NCATE issue may require filling a position; the only example so far is Adolescent Ed/Social Studies. Recent ECO ad is an anomaly, reflecting unique circumstance of the "permanent status" of immigrant faculty member.

A question was raised about departments cutting back on adjuncts or their hours? Bruce Mattingly stated that chairs are in the best position to determine that. There is no specific demand to cut extra sections.

Facilities

Old Main is now in “punch list” stage of the project. Brown Auditorium is still in a state of upheaval.

An issue is being addressed regarding the construction in Moffett during finals week. Currently the issue is with Nasrin Parvizi and Willaim Shaut.

A question was raised regarding facilities. When the system has sent out that a “work order” has been completed, does this maybe mean that the *order* is complete, or that the *work* is now complete?

Budget

Department of Art and Art History’s IFR account received the 20% budget cut, but after pursuing the issue, William Shaut has restored the cut. Other departments may follow suit.

Vans and busses will be much more expensive. It was suggested that the Provost cover the gap.

Discussion continued on how severe the budget crisis will be. It is likely to continue. Mark Prus is currently heading up a Revenue Enhancement Committee.

Curriculum

Proposal for planning grant for Science Masters has been submitted.

Inclusive Special Ed is proposing a 7-12 curriculum. This would allow our Adolescent Ed graduates to get the ISE Masters. The proposal includes a request for two new faculty lines. Bruce Mattingly noted that in recent history, it is the new Masters programs that get the new lines. Even though this is a poor budget period, making proposals at the graduate level is a good idea. The three deans and interim director of Graduate Studies are addressing the graduate program review; they will approach it carefully.

Old Business

Summer Scheduling Proposal - EPC has made a recommendation. The comment period ended; most comments were positive.

Spring 2009 schedule - keep an eye on enrollments.

DSI procedures feedback - Performing Arts would prefer to have recognition trump the money award; ICC agrees. Political Science, English, and Geology oppose the idea. Bruce Mattingly commented that when there is a split like this, it is unlikely that there will be a change.

Regarding the draft DSI form discussed at our last meeting, Bruce Mattingly received the message that, “we don’t like the numbers.” It is understood that this is still a work in progress.

New Business

Final Exam Requests ~ Note today’s e-mail from the Registrar reminding faculty about exams during the last week of classes...it is not allowed, and likewise with study days. A question was raised regarding study sessions on exam days. Registrar’s email discourages this but no policy evident in the catalog to back this up. Final exams are covered in the College Handbook, 415.03, *Examination Policies*, stating that final exams are required, with some exceptions allowed. When exams are not being given, chairs need to know for which courses, and why. Special permission of the dean is an “out” for those requiring papers in the last week of class:

“No examinations, quizzes, or tests of any type should be given during the last week of classes prior to the published final examination week. Any deviation from this policy must be approved in advance by the appropriate department chair and school dean.”

Scholars’ Day Schedule ~ Chris Cirmo reported that the question of timing was raised. There is a general agreement that it should remain a weekday. The President’s Office has received reports of poor behavior on the Tuesday night prior to Scholars’ Day. Holding it on a Saturday was an idea, but there were objections to that as well. Perhaps a Friday would work, especially right before Honors Convocation and the banquets/meetings on Saturday. This might encourage parents to come to a Friday Scholars’ Day event. It would be possible to change the date for Spring 2009. Chairs were asked to discuss this in their departments. There was general support at the Chairs’ Council to try Friday as an experiment. It was mentioned that the Cortland Dance Company has a performance on the Friday night of the proposed Scholars’ Day. Additionally, the Scholars’ Day Committee will ask faculty not to require students to attend specific talks (this has led to overcrowded rooms and limited access for those not required to be there).

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome O’Callaghan
Associate Dean
11/10/08