

Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes October 19, 2009

Members Present: S. Anderson, S. Asumah, G. Bhat, P. Ducey, A. Fitz-Gibbon, C. Heasley, I. Jubran, M. Lessig, B. Mattingly, C. McRoberts, D. Neal, J. O'Callaghan, J. Ouellette, G. Phelan, T. Phillips, R. Ponterio, W. Skipper, B. Smith, R. Spitzer, S. Steadman, P. van der Veur

Announcements:

- Fire inspection coming in one week
- Succeeding as Women in Higher Education Conference – October 23-25 – students are free – Keynote free too
- Panel discussion by the Undergraduate Research Council: Funding opportunities – 5:00 p.m., Sperry 309
- 64 bit VPN access now available
- Sweeney Todd opens this weekend
- Gospel concert – November 1 – Brown Auditorium – 4:00 PM – five colleges are participating

Personnel:

Nothing to report

Facilities:

Bowers committee met last week.

Dowd committee will be meeting next week.

Studio West will go down in the spring – surge problem will be acute – more pressure to use classrooms, etc. at all available times.

Question: Could we return to 10 minute gap between classes?

Answer: This is something to consider. Class periods to be regained.

Budget:

News is not good. Governor's budget \$90 million cut – the Chancellor sees that as a reality. Will it be distributed evenly? Not known. That is critical. Underenrolled classes will be harder to justify for spring 2010.

It is not known yet if faculty searches will go forward.

Question: Shouldn't the President suspend administrative searches in this context? Some administrative positions are critical, but not the ones that are online now.

Answer: Not all administrative searches are going forward.

Question: Any reduction in enrollment planned?

Answer: No – less revenue.

Possibilities: increased class sizes, less release time, 3-3- load. Budget: 80-85% is on personnel.

Question: Large classes with TA help would work for some courses.

Answer: Dean is willing to consider that.

Comment: Wouldn't 3-4 or 4-4 load add to space pressure? Giving up release time is a better option.

Performing Arts: Our load varies from 3-4 to 4-4.

Question: Will department accounts be "swept" again?

Answer: No talk of that.

Comments: a 4-4 load will change the nature of the instruction. It affects our applicant pool. Maybe administrators will be asked to teach a class.

Curriculum:

No report.

Curriculum change process, an amendment just passed in the Senate. Emphasis on deference to departmental expertise. Not clear if it's effective this semester or next semester.

Comment: Honors courses – departments make sacrifices to offer them and it is harder to justify.

Talentino is finding it harder to offer honor's sections. Provost and Dean will need to meet with Talentino on this.

Old Business:

Academic Affairs Reorganization – two-school model. The Provost will send out his position soon.

Comments:

- too much whining already. Bring Education into Arts and Sciences, that should be considered.
- no substantive argument vs. merger.

- the idea of moving Adolescence Education into School of Education – we are dismayed by that – we need method/pedagogy synergy in our departments.
- Another option is to split Professional Studies into Arts and Sciences and Education.
- Expect open meetings on the reorganization.

Strategic Planning – please complete the online survey regarding goals. It is not clear if input matters on the goals.

New Business:

- 2010 Schedule – Because of the budget, we need to watch enrollment carefully.
- Marketing: remind faculty regarding brochures and other public documents: Use the logo and “SUNY Cortland.” Consistency is valuable – see Marketing Advisory Committee – most answers on these issues are in the Style Manual. [Sue will send the Style Manual link to chairs - www.cortland.edu/resources/stylemanual.pdf]

- myRedDragon and Blackboard – Amy Berg. Raised question – why do we automatically generate courses inside Blackboard when so many are unused?

What would you like to see in myRedDragon?

- ease of use in classes is increasing
- I don't use it, I want a simple one page user guide
- How about faculty learning communities about MyRedDragon and Blackboard.
- 50%+ use it is Psychology.
- many unhappy with timeout function.
- It has got to work better, asked to login again and again. Help button doesn't really help.
- Blackboard CT is being phased out.
- Move on to Blackboard – there will be a new revision soon.
- MyRedDragon could be used for groups.
- Should we ask that all WebCT classes have at least a syllabus online?
- Others do on-line work outside webCT.
- Portal concerns should be brought to Amy.
- The full version of Blackboard is very expensive.

Summer Class Caps:

On-line cap, per Provost, not necessarily at 15. See request data in handout. Dean wants to pursue a rational and consistent policy.

For Arts and Sciences in 2010, we have 18 sections requesting 15 seats, and only two WI courses in this request. Some faculty have found 15 to be doable, in a practical way. Some sympathy for the first time online instructor – give them the 15 cap.

Options discussion: Leave it to department chairs is one option. Split the difference – go to 20. Use categories, e.g., WI, foreign language.

Concerns/comments: Bio faculty – pay is too low. Treating in-class as less valuable than on-line class creates a problem.

Faculty can gradually incorporate WebCT.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome O'Callaghan