

## Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes September 28, 2009

Members Present: S. Anderson, S. Asumah, G. Bhat, P. Ducey, C. Heasley, I. Jubran, M. Lessig, B. Mattingly, C. McRoberts, D. Neal, J. Ouellette, G. Phelan, T. Phillips, R. Ponterio, K. Russell, W. Skipper, B. Smith, R. Spitzer, S. Steadman, P. van der Veur

Guests: Provost Prus; L. Berry

### **Academic Affairs Reorganization:** M. Prus, Provost & VP Academic Affairs

Dean Mattingly introduced Provost Prus who discussed the Academic Affairs Reorganization plan. He is visiting all three chairs' council meetings - Professional Studies this morning and Education later this afternoon.

The proposal includes four components:

1. Return to a two-school model (remerging the School of Education and the School of Professional Studies).
2. Restructure of the Office of Graduate Studies - to realign functional responsibilities that are redundant.
3. Create an office of the Assistant Provost for Teacher Education (permanent position) - In recognition of the fact that the teacher preparation programs are distributed across all three schools of the college and not do not reside solely in the School of Education.
4. Consolidate the positions of Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs.

The Provost's cabinet has been discussing the reorganization since last spring. In June the entire cabinet endorsed the plan. At this point in time, the President's Cabinet and the President have endorsed three of the four components of the plan - all but #1 (the return to the two-school model). President Bitterbaum is not convinced about one element of the proposal. Provost noted that there are still details to be worked out – it is not a done deal. He wants to give chairs the chance to address the plan, and there will be open meetings with all faculty across the college to consider the plan and address their concerns.

He feels this plan is the most efficient and effective way to conduct the work of academic affairs. If it is decided to proceed, the changes would be implemented in fall 2010.

They are currently engaged in discussions with Graduate Studies to talk about how the transition will work, and they hope to have it implemented by fall 2010 (#2 above). They are also currently working on the last two elements- search committee for permanent

Assistant Provost for Teacher Education has been formed. In some ways the search for that position is connected to the proposal to return to a two-school model.

Provost explained, why do this now? It has to do largely with the economic conditions faced by SUNY generally and SUNY Cortland. Last year we absorbed the \$3.9 million in budget cuts by holding positions vacant, restricting travel, going into reserves, etc. The Governor is intent upon closing the \$2.1 billion state budget deficit and SUNY will be expected to take its share of that cut – mid year cut of \$1.5 – 2.5 million for Cortland on top of the \$3.9 million. Provost estimates that the merging of the two schools would save a minimum of \$300,000; and about \$.5 million savings with the combined action of all four points proposal. It is the only proposal on the table that has saving money and reserving/restoring faculty positions.

As for the going backwards concern, the Provost feels this is not going backwards; it is an organizational change model, “organizational evolution” for the conditions we face and is in the best interest of the college. It should not be viewed as short term. He noted that it is important to use the savings to create faculty positions.

Would this proposal have been considered if there was not a financial crisis? – Yes. He noted that in all of the NCATE accredited teacher education programs within the SUNY sector, probably about 40% do not reside in distinct schools of education (Brockport, Plattsburg, Potsdam), but they continue to obtain their NCATE accreditation. We do not appear to need a school of education to continue our accreditation.

Questions:

\*\* What are President Bitterbaum’s objections? - He, like many others, questions the estimate of salary savings, has concerns about the impact on NCATE, fearful that faculty in professional studies and education will resist change, and noted that if we decide to do it, there is no going back.

Provost noted that the President has an open mind, and is open to persuasion, but he is not there yet.

\*\* Faculty in the school of education feelings on this proposal? The feel they never had strong leadership - failure of leadership. Provost feels this is a failure of organizational structure – not leadership.

\*\* Any estimate on the number of faculty in Education and Professional Studies who are resisting the plan? – 50/50 perhaps, can’t really say. Professional Studies resistance is higher probably. They feel they have functioned more effectively with a separate school. Structural issues were discussed. Possibility instead of a single curriculum committee and personnel committee – set up divisional personnel committees.

\*\* \$300,000 saved in the two-school proposal, and \$.5 million whole with the first two components – fewer faculty/more administrators over the years. Discussion on

organizational change - a leaner administration, being more efficient and trying to make more faculty lines (not eliminating faculty lines).

\*\* Economic situation and restructuring and budget – systematic issues? Structural paralysis? – Input and output – Input are the students and faculty. If we do this, we could add 10 full-time faculty positions. Good for faculty.

\*\* Provost noted that we have 36 vacant positions and have not had to let anyone go. This has caused an increase in faculty workload, advisement load, services load, class size, etc.

\*\* Discussion regarding how enrollments in the schools and the teacher education programs have changed. Historical changes and trends were discussed.

\*\* How this would look to high school counselors/students – having combined schools? Provost doesn't think a high school identifies with a "school" at the college. They identify with a department and the college as a whole.

\*\* The Director of Marketing position during a hiring freeze? It is a new full-time position. Current pay is Associate Provost vs. Director.

Provost said there are savings by this move.

\*\* Why do we have that position with the Admissions Office? How can we see the savings figure into faculty lines? It will save or create faculty lines/searches. (Benefits are picked up by the state.)

\*\* How do you see this unfolding?

Provost said it needs strong support of the faculty. They want input and questions to go to Provost and President. President makes the decision. It is expected that the clerical staff will have opportunities elsewhere on campus – so it will not have a negative impact on them.

\*\* If new model – what would it be called?

\*\* Discussion on the new Education building and how the prestige of having a school of education – grants written involving education that generate money for the college.

There is strength in teacher education in all academic units.

Other configurations are being proposed by department for programs/department moves.

### **NeoVox: Lorraine Berry, Director**

Everyone introduced themselves to Lorraine.

Lorraine passed around a handout, "What is NeoVox?" She talked about the goals of NeoVox and that she wants broader participation across the schools and to increase NeoVox presence in departments. She feels it is a valuable experience, speaking to other students in the world – international participation. They try to publish every week or bi-weekly – as frequently as they can. She does not censor, but she does want to see their sources. They should have their own voices

There are very talented art students working on designing posters on campus – think about them.

How do students get involved? Students can get involved by either doing internships (PWR 495 – 120/hrs./week over a semester – writing research); freelance work; or taking IST 310 (1 – 3 credits, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter class). Students do need special permission to register for the course(s) – they should see Lorraine.

Discussion on including NeoVox into the curriculum – departments could consider a project in classes that would be of interest outside of class and turn it into a NeoVox project for the students with the possibility of getting published. She stressed that publishing does make a difference on resumes.

S. Anderson feels that the Geography Department could use it in their curriculum. Lorraine will go to their department meeting.

She invited chairs to email her or drop by her lab (52 Dowd Fine Arts) if any questions.

### **Announcements:**

- 2010 Summer Session Course Proposals – due to the dean by Friday, October 2. Guaranteed summer proposal moving forward.
- Second Language Educators Conference – October 3
- SUNY Cortland Center for Economic Education Teaching Institute for October 5 – postponed to January.
- Special Exam Requests are due to dean by Friday, October 9.
- Chairs' Professional Development Workshops – October 26 and November 30.
- Women in Higher Education Conference – October 23 – 25. Reminder that pledges are needed. Dr. Zimpher, the new Chancellor, will be speaking on Saturday.
- Sociology/Anthropology Open House – September 30
- Gender Forum II , October 8. P. Ducey – Attended Gender I Forum and he found it to be challenging and relevant to what is going on on campus.
- GI Bill Talk – September 29, Corey Union Exhibition Lounge
- Chemistry Lecture: Laponite Nanocomposites for Solar Applications – September 29, Sperry

### **Associate Dean's Report**

No Report

### **Personnel**

No new news.

Question: Thought we were on a hiring freeze – why are we hiring administrators? Is it a faculty hiring freeze only? Dean Mattingly noted it is not SUNY Central, it is our administration, a “soft freeze” – when vacancies occur they won't automatically be filled. We are much less likely to fill faculty positions because adjuncts can be hired to fill faculty positions.

Question on searches – other SUNY campus vs. Cortland – it is Cortland’s decision based on our budget here. B. Shaut recommends to the President.

### **Facilities**

Dowd – There was a renovation meeting to discuss where departments want to move – where to move departments. This is a critical maintenance project – what has to be done is being discussed. Dowd is scheduled to be off line – Summer 2011.

Bowers – There was a technical meeting last week -“Green Meeting”.

### **Budget**

No news on budget.

### **Curriculum**

Handout on GE Assessment Schedule was discussed. It was noted that we are not doing as well on 4, 8, 9 and 10b, IM – will continue on with the process. Institutional Research sends results back to department – conversations – over the summer there will be some adjustments.

Syllabi review one year, assessment the next year, make use of the results the third year. Happens every three years – assessment committee asks to review course syllabi.

Departments should be getting something soon. Don’t worry about the Oct. 27 date.

### **Old Business**

Searches on line – ad ready to go – where are these now – at what level ? Waiting for direction from Provost, Dean and Human Resources. Bruce stressed it is important to know what the priorities for the job are.

### **New Business**

Discussion with WebCT and an E-learning student getting kicked off after 20 minutes – problem for students. Discussed portal 20 minute time out issue – some warning should be given. It is a locally designed feature set up by Cortland.

It was reported that videos in classes are so slow and broken up – let Amy Berg know this in your department meetings. VHS recorders – stopping this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Teeter