

School of Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes January 25, 2010

Present: K. Alwes, S. Anderson, S. Asumah, G. Bhat, R. Darling, P. Ducey, C. Heasley, I. Jubran, D. Neal, B. Mattingly, J. O'Callaghan, J. Ouellette, G. Phelan, T. Phillips, R. Ponterio, K. Russell, W. Skipper, B. Smith, R. Spitzer, S. Steadman

Guest: A. Talentino

A. Talentino, Coordinator of the Honors Program, was welcomed. He is soliciting department support – Investing in the Honors Program. Student volume is growing; more faculty need to know about the program; certain courses are particularly relevant (see Arnold's handout). He is welcoming more inquiries from faculty. GE12 has been tough to get in Honors format. From a student perspective the big perk of the Honors program is early registration.

Dean Mattingly: Do we want a few departments delivering most Honors sections, or can we spread that more?

Question: Can Dean still support small classes in the Honors program?

Dean Mattingly: You have to be willing to pay the price for Honors program – it will take smaller classes.

Question: How about Honors seminars in place of current contract courses?

Answer: Good idea.

Announcements:

Dean Mattingly's promotion was noted: we now have a "new Dean" – shorter title – congratulations offered from all.

Sabbaticals for Chairs in English and Communication Studies: K. Alwes returns (for M. Lessig) and T. Mwanika will be in place of P. van der Veur.

February is Black History Month: Sandwich Seminars Wednesday and Thursday and evening programs. Flyers will be out soon and check the Bulletin.

Associate Dean's Report:

Alpha Delta Deadline is February 8 to have faculty nominations/recommendations to Associate Dean.

Catalog Schedule: February 8 – February 19 – Review Period I and sign off sheets to Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies. April 19 – May 3 is the Review Period II.

Higher Education Reauthor Act has led to some pressure for earlier determination of the semester schedule. Feasibility of very early scheduling appointments with Dean and Registrar is doubtful. The ultimate goal (of Congress) is to get more textbook data to families at the time of registration.

Personnel:

No searches going on currently in Arts and Sciences.

Facilities:

Dowd: Program study is almost finished. A decision will be made by Friday regarding Dowd by the Provost. In the long-term plan – drawing and painting will move into Dowd. Communication Studies will be moving; perhaps to Moffett (when final phase is done) – perhaps to Old Main. No movement of Art studios until Dowd is complete. Summer '11 will be the move out for renovation of Dowd.

Bowers: Surge committee at work – options are Cornish or trailers!

Question: Not really beneficial move (to Dowd) for faculty in Art. Why do this?

Answer: Communication Studies are relevant. Won't be a complete consolidation. The Provost has a long interest in this consolidation. Communication Studies is growing too. TV studio will fit in Old Main, where current art studios are. Bear in mind regarding Dowd that the design phase will get to lighting, etc. Adding additional windows is understood as necessary.

C. Heasley: Smaller space is a problem.

S. Anderson: Colloquium Room will not be a dining room in the future. Faculty was surprised by Room 218 going to facilities too. (Per Rhonda – that was discussed at prior chairs' meeting.)

J. Ouellette: More faculty are needed on FMPOC – not enough faculty input.

Dean Mattingly: Administration does take great pains regarding big moves (e.g. Bowers and Dowd) – not so regarding surge space, short term and quick decisions.

S. Asumah: Can we use the Facilities conference room instead of room 218? Apparently that will be okay. Dean Mattingly will check on that.

Dean Mattingly: If you have issues with facilities, visit them, they are on the second floor in Old Main.

S. Anderson: Lack of a faculty dining hall is still a live issue. It has gone to Faculty Senate.

Dean Mattingly: Campus Master Plan discussion is on its way.

B. Skipper: You have to be vigilant with faculty groups.

Dean Mattingly will help re communicating discussions: will send out FMPOC schedule.

Budget: Teaching Loads:

At the President's Opening meeting, President Bitterbaum made it clear he wants to stick to a 3/3/ load. If there was a 4/3 load, it would mean 250 extra courses taught by full-time faculty – a savings of \$650,000. To avoid the 4/3 option, how could we save an equal amount?

250 sections to go – how to do it? How can that happen?

Variety of ways of achieving the goal.

Three different models discussed, depending on how you look at a department's contribution to the schedule: (1) number of courses offered, (2) temp service budget used, (3) student credit hours generated.

It is still up in the air. We want to have alternatives.

B. Spitzer is now soliciting signatures regarding resolution by chairs against going to 4/3 load. Also suggesting an invitation to departments in the school of Education to join Arts and Sciences.

B. Mattingly: Some savings happening in IR right now (\$65,000).

B. Darling: We don't teach a 3/3 load – explained to Dean years ago – contact hours matter. Now we are on a 4/3 – we can't deliver the program on 3/3.

D. Neal: Likewise, Performing Arts – more at 4/3.

S. Asumah: Likewise.

R. Darling: Dean should release data on what the load is by department – some departments have contact hours. K. Russell seconded that.

P. Ducey: some departments have large services course requirements. They can't be cut, it ruins the other programs.

R. Spitzer: Political Science needs adjuncts to deliver its most popular concentration.

S. Anderson: There is more we have in common with the School of Education than we realize.

B. Mattingly: We will return to this at another meeting.

Curriculum:

Fall 2010 Schedule:

Rhonda has reported that these are the worst tech requests that we have seen as far as rooms. Arts and Sciences alone fills most spots. Beware – there is bad news regarding 9:10 & 10:20 MWF; 10:05 T TH coming for some. Remember dedicated spaces need to be utilized all day. We will check that. (8 a.m. and 3 p.m. are the empty slots.) All this is worsened by Studio West closure.

Will keep GE issue for another time/meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business:

B. Smith: Sustainability Week – a week designed to broaden the scope of people who see it as relevant to their work.

- 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

- hoping to see curriculum that week reflect a sustainability agenda.

Strategic Plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome O'Callaghan
Associate Dean