

Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes 11/08/10

Present: Scott Anderson, Seth Asumah, Robert Darling, Peter Ducey, Lori Ellis, Christopher Gascon, Isa Jubran, Matthew Lessig, David Neal, Jerome O'Callaghan, Judith Ouellette, Gregory Phelan, Kathryn Russell, William Skipper, Brice Smith, Robert Spitzer, Sharon Steadman, Randi Storch, German Zarate.
Absent: Bruce Mattingly, Paul van der Veur

Associate Dean's Report – None

Personnel:

Update on ongoing searches.

-FYI SUNY has a faculty diversity program – system provides partial salary support and help with research. It is very competitive. Deadlines are tricky: there is one in the fall and one on February 28. We'd need an acceptance in place on February 28 to apply.

Comment: Someone should tell SUNY that the deadlines are not helpful (the Provost has tried that in the past).

Personnel – recent meetings on process are complete.

Questions about the department chair role.

Can Chair consider items outside the portfolio e.g. prior materials that the Chair knows?

-Bruce Mattingly: Strictly speaking, no. However there are indirect ways to address that.

Note that candidates often accidentally exclude relevant material, so a prompt from the Chair would help.

Question: Does it serve us well if we are forced to ignore relevant material?

Question: What do we as Chairs bring to it? One way to handle it is to review the candidate's material before reading the letters.

Some Chairs feel they are forced to ignore information that they know is relevant.

Bruce Mattingly: It's a question of pointing out how the record is incomplete. Remember the candidate can add to the folder (do we need time stamps for all departments?!).

Note: it's odd to have chairs sit on a personnel committee and later the chair conducts an "independent" review. It's frustrating not to be able to respond to poor work by faculty, for example, in advising.

Recent changes are in the interpretation of the Handbook. Variation in interpretation is causing concern in the English Department. Shouldn't this be referred to faculty approval? It's not clearly addressed in the Handbook; for example, abstaining in votes.

Bruce Mattingly: The Handbook is a gray area. The provost is the last arbiter of the Handbook.

The Faculty Affairs Committee decided last year that the Dean and the Provost were not proactive enough regarding committees doing the required work. Abstaining cannot be a mask for refusing to make a decision.

Robert Spitzer: The power of the Chair is the power to persuade.

Russell: There is a procedure for disciplining faculty; article 19 of the contract.

Scott: The tenure decision is critical. We have to be careful then to avoid creating monsters in the future.

Bruce Mattingly: It's always valuable to make a case with documentation when issues arise.

For information on article 19, talk to Human Resources first and/or union representatives (i.e. Randi).

Bypassing lower levels of review – is that possible? Not really.

Suggestion: A workshop on Article 19 would be a good idea.

Retirement Incentive:

Twenty two classified staff retired – forty two job postings. December 10, is the faculty/staff deadline.

Twenty faculty and staff expressing interest in the early retirement incentive.

Administrative Conference: too much information but no questions and answers. Why not provide slides in advance?

Facilities:

Note: Fire Inspections schedule.

Call For Alterations proposals have gone to faculty and Bruce Mattingly will send them forward on November 12, 2010. CFA budget is \$75,000.

Posting announcements is a problem regarding walls and doors. Repainting/repair issue and remember bulletin boards have been provided for this purpose. Janitors have been instructed to remove posters. Maybe kiosks in the future.

The Bowers project is still on schedule. Dowd will be delayed into spring; May 2012. Bruce Mattingly has lobbied to get Moffett done ahead of Dowd. It's a long shot. Creating new space in Moffett. There is no sign that Moffett will move ahead of Dowd.

FMPOC:

The ground floor and first floor of Old Main as the location of Academic Computing. Perhaps the basement was what was intended. Check with Facilities (Bruce Mattingly will do this). Feedback to the Dean.

There is a question about what will happen to the loading dock in Old Main? There is a question of where is the loading dock in the Arts annex.

There is some concern regarding the lack of exercise space on upper campus, with Tomik going to the Student Life Center.

Budget: None

Curriculum: None

Assessment and Accreditation: None.

Strategic Priorities:

Well-being

It's not expected that all departments fulfill all aspects of strategic priorities. Note the reference to "physical and emotional cultural and social" well-being.

Bruce Mattingly: It's relevant to the reappointment and promotion process discussed earlier.

-Perhaps Performing Arts – building a character; preparation for performer.

-Political Science – activities outside the classroom; club activities.

-Don't forget AAS contributions to cultural events.

-Perhaps the Internationalization report is relevant; knowledge of other places (overlaps with Transformational Education).

-Art-Raquette Lake trip as bonding experience for new students with faculty.

-Learning Communities contribute, too.

Kathryn Russell: The scheduling of deadlines for coursework. Students would like to see greater dispersal.

Seth Asumah: Retention of students – it's an issue with students of color. Needing assistance from Admissions regarding visiting student on November 11. Feeling insulted by Admissions not funding cookies, etc.

Bruce Mattingly: Relying on Strategic Priorities categories is intended to make a difference in what we do.

Bruce Mattingly does not see any change of Strategic Priorities coming.

Announcements:

Open House - November 12

Conflict resolution workshop - November 15

Withdrawal from Course deadline - November 15

2011 Summer Session proposals due to Dean - November 19

NCUR at Ithaca College 3/31/11-4/2/11: Abstracts due - November 19