

## **Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes 2/24/14**

### **DRAFT**

Present: Bruce Mattingly, Scott Anderson, Seth Asumah, David Barclay, Kathleen Burke, Peter Ducey, Andrew Fitz-Gibbon, Timothy Gerhard, Herbert Haines, Isa Jubran, Matthew Lessig, David Neal, Jerome O'Callaghan, Judith Ouellette, Gregory Phelan, Brice Smith, Henry Steck, Randi Storch, Paul van der Veur.

Absent: Kathryn Kramer

Guest: Alexandru Balas

#### **Announcements:**

- Bruce: tentative agreement reached regarding LICHE. This could mean that SUNY can sell it by May.
- Discussion continues regarding paper towels vs. hand dryers.
- Problems of ice falling off the roof of Old Main: Nasrin is setting up a meeting.
- When the media calls faculty regarding data on students (e.g. edTPA), all questions go to Fred Pierce.

#### **Topics Discussed:**

- Personnel – searches: N. Karkov accepted a position in Philosophy. Psychology is optimistic about two hires coming soon. An Economics offer is going out soon. The English searches are in progress. Physics candidates are coming to campus soon. Math candidates were seen; an offer is to be made soon. The Chemistry offer was a success.
- GE update: open meetings are now over. The GE committee will be meeting with students, soon.
- The process for GE change should be in the hands of Faculty, not students or staff. We need a serious faculty discussion to avoid a “cut and paste” mess. Students tend to want flexibility to avoid hard courses.
- Per Bob Spitzer, a faculty referendum is part of the process later on. He disagrees with the assertion that faculty are not taking it seriously.
- Extensive discussion of possible GE change. Department voices *as departments* would help. A meeting with GE groups would help.
- Is the problem of flexibility really a question about teacher ed. curriculum? Are the questions in the meetings beside the real point? Has the hypothesis really changed since the start of the discussion? Recall that GE has a purpose regarding our students' learning.
- Recall the existing process allows for changes in GE lists. New proposals are welcome. Also, if lack of sections is an issue in GE, let's deal with it now. The GE debate will be continued via Faculty Senate.

**Dean's Office:**

- The curriculum process is ongoing in Arts & Sciences and CCRC. The deadline of 1/15/14 applies for changes. The preference of departments is more flexibility regarding the deadline.
- Travel funding – there is no more news. Recently received \$15 thousand to cover travel requests. Recent requests are now on hold. New requests are very tentative.
- Reimbursement requests for subscriptions are denied.
- Fall 2014 classroom problem. For example, MWF 10:20 has six sections that can't be placed. The Dean will look for departments where offerings are particularly imbalanced. That's where changes will be needed. Bruce will send an email regarding changes needed.

**Concerns Raised:** Procedures for new course proposals. Wouldn't it be simpler just to add to forms/ a box showing the change in program?

**Other: none**