

Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council Meeting Minutes May 9, 2011

Present: Bruce Mattingly, 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, Sharon Steadman, Randi Storch, Paul van der Veur, German Zarate.

Associate Dean's Report:

Catalog Review – curriculum process is running late this year.

Course substitution forms in. Graduation checklists are in good shape.

Personnel:

Department Chairs – service coming to an end for some members of the council.

Doing new terms:

- Bob Spitzer
- David Neal
- Brice Smith
- Seth Asumah

In Biology, the process is going on for new chair selection. We will need a new Academic Affairs representative to replace Peter Ducey.

Facilities:

Colloquium: Facilities Management will move out. They will be replaced by International Programs and the faculty/staff lounge. Dowd Gallery won't go there.

Scott wants hot water in the Colloquium.

Moffett and Old Main: Process of choosing programs. The old study needs to be reviewed, consultants hired to do this. The move will entail emptying some space in Old Main. Recent discussions with Modern Languages about a possible move. Bruce Mattingly has recommended all departments be met by consultants. Awaiting a meeting time – check your email.

Reminder: Bowers is going down after spring.

Miller relocation design is in progress.

Also: July 1-29 – Cortland City Summer School. Possibly in Old Main in July. The issue of security is yet to be resolved. Any need for teachers resources?

Not clear on parking.

Old Main: any issues in July?

Lori Ellis: equipment and work and students' access, areas of concern. Common spaces can be locked.

Jerry O'Callaghan: There is a noise factor and warn them about heat.

Budget: No news.

Curriculum:

Discussion is ongoing. Psychology 331 is being pursued as an alternative to the SPE 275. It's an urgent issue for transfer students, not freshmen.

Assessment and Accreditation:

- Meeting with Dennis and Marley regarding graduate programs. It is related to NCATE recommendations. Expect a meeting in late May or early June.

Randi Storch: is there any discussion about a better process? Chairs are often the last ones to hear. Mixed messages are circulated. There is a delay in getting the information.

Bruce Mattingly: more discussion is needed. It could have been better handled. The state memos didn't allow enough time. The dean meets regularly with AEC and then there's FEAC and TEC – coordinators are supposed to bring this back to the departments.

Randi: graduate programs are often out of the loop. Do we have to do what NCATE tells us? Why don't we reject some of this? Can't we go back and tell the state we want different outcomes?

Bruce: both points regarding communication and more discussion are needed.

Judy Ouellette: being more open to sharing of the information from the start would have helped!

Scott: we need more nuanced interpretation of state education requirements.

Isa: we could have done with more time to see all our options. For example, field work change of requirements.

Bruce: NCATE – we need not be extreme in our interpretation of their requirements. NCATE expects "all faculty" are evaluated but that's not one-hundred percent of the time. NCATE gave us a clean bill on standard five.

Randi: faculty should control the curriculum. A hierarchical model was used. That's top down and not respectful of our model.

Robert Spitzer: some on campus mimic NCATE too much. This is not K-12, we don't have to copy their values.

Curriculum:

8:00 a.m. schedule; see handout.

Thanks to all for adding more classes at 8 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

- 67% of the seats at 8 a.m. go to Arts and Sciences; approximately 1300-1800 seats.

- It will be shared with the other deans, too.

New Business:

Chairs' Professional Development:

Question - Are there any issues you would like to see addressed?

Answer - When students are not approved for progress.

OPI – now being used in Modern Languages – standard of “Advanced Low” is the target. Students complain and try to blame the advisor.

More tips for new Chairs – like a Chairs' handbook.

Sharon Steadman: Clark Center will come to the departments to talk about handling international students in classes.

Lori: one chair to brief the next chair.

Seth: cultural competence - regarding faculty interactions with students of color. Students can be offended. This is especially relevant to Chairs.

Chairs compensation:

See handout of proposed changes from John Cottone.

Proposal increases sensitivity to the number of faculty and decreases sensitivity to the number of majors.

Question: absence of faculty lines means more work for the chair, but is not rewarded in the scheme.

Question: professional staff is not counted here (e.g. Art, Performing Arts). Seems to be inaccurate regarding English, Geology, History, Psychology, Biology, Sociology, and Anthropology. The formula that is supposed to be in place doesn't match actual perks now.

- Is this really a budget cut? The scheme ignores the number of programs within a department (also minors).

- GE students and servicing other departments is not counted here.

-The model doesn't handle multi-disciplinary majors well (AAS). Complexity there.

Bruce: if we are all special, then there is no point in the model. Equity is good here.

Question: how are labs calculated?

Question: how frequently is this renewed/revised for a chair?

- New programs in Chemistry. Recall all departments are not 3/3 – for example, Performing Arts. All items not included are hidden – it's a lot of work.

- Time with students is intensive. The proposal undervalues this. Maybe we need to *actually* apply the current model.

- Does the proposal have any justification for making the change?

- Per Isa, Math is the hardest subject.