

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LIBERAL ARTS FACULTY SENATE

October 18, 2011

3:35 p.m. in STEW 313

Dean Irwin Weiser, Presiding

Present: Dwight Atkinson; Elena Benedicto; Robert Channon; Kory Cooper; Susan Curtis; Alejandro Cuza-Blanco; Scott Feld; Geraldine Friedman; Ariel de la Fuente; Catherine Dossin; John Duvall; Anne Fliotsos; Elaine Francis; Ellen Gruenbaum; Richard Hogan; Richard Lee; Al Lopez; Shannon McMullen; Colleen Neary-Sundquist; Riall Nolan; Patrice Rankine; Daniel Smith; Jack Spencer; Ralph Webb; Chris Yeomans

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011:

The minutes were approved as distributed.

2. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

- A) Professor Jack Spencer, chair of the Curriculum Committee, reported that the committee approved four new courses, one course revision, and two program revisions. (See report #11-04.) The Senate approved the committee's report.
- B) Professor Anne Fliotsos, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the annual faculty survey of the dean & his staff will be open on the web November 1-15. Faculty will receive an invitation via email on November 1. There are nine questions.

Regarding attendance at CLA Senate meetings, Professor Fliotsos stated: "In Spring 2011, the vice chair of the CLA Senate, Evelyn Blackwood charged the FAC to discuss the issue of poor attendance at CLA Senate meetings. Our charge was 'to think about possible policy changes that would help to improve attendance at the Senate meetings and bring your proposal(s) to the Senate.' Dr. Blackwood also provided five possible actions discussed at the April 2011 Senate meeting." At a meeting on October 12, 2011, the FAC discussed possible solutions and made several recommendations. Since there is no formal policy about Senate attendance, the committee suggested the following recommendations for a possible amendment to the by-laws. The committee feared that, if no "official" change is made, there will be little incentive to change the status quo.

Recommendations:

- 1. Inform department heads that an alternate senator is to be elected along with the slate of three-year senators. If an elected senator cannot attend, s/he must contact the alternate as a replacement. If a senator has a conflict for the entire semester, such as a class at the Senate meeting time, the alternate is expected to fill in for the entire semester.
- 2. Inform senators and department heads that a regular report on the CLA Senate activities should be made to faculty in his/her department as a mechanism for keeping lines of communication open.
- 3. Since attendance is already tracked, a member of the Dean's office should report senate attendance to each department head. The head is requested to address attendance problems with individuals as needed.

Two further recommendations are tangential, and involve the election of senators. Several faculty have served on the CLA senate repeatedly, while others have never served.

- 1. *When electing new senators, the number of terms already served should be indicated on the ballot after each name. (It is already stated in the by-laws that no senator should serve more than six consecutive years—2 terms—without a break.)*
- 2. *Instructions for voting should encourage an election of senators across several ranks of seniority as well as across subject areas within a department.*

Discussion followed. There was a suggestion to establish a quorum for voting on Senate actions to encourage attendance, to make the senate more active, and a comment that non attendees not be reported to the department heads. There was additional discussion about the role of the senate and expectations of senators.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

5. DEAN'S REPORT:

1. Dean Weiser reported that the Dean's Advisory Council will meet this Friday. They will be asked to offer suggestions about how to translate the current draft of the CLA strategic plan into language they think will appeal to non-academic audiences, and they will be updated about events and initiatives that have taken place since their last meeting.
2. The dean said he is preparing for a presentation in late November to the Capital Project Council, which is charged with helping establish priorities for major capital projects on campus, including new buildings and large scale renovations. He has asked department heads to provide him with information about facility challenges they face. As part of his presentation, Dr. Weiser will discuss a collaborative proposal between Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Technology for a new building called the Student Projects or Student Design Building. If approved and if funds can be raised, it will be built on what's being called the Student Success Corridor, on Third Street between University and Martin Jischke Drive (i.e., where Lawson, the BCC, and the Rec Sports facility are located). CLA's primary use for the facility would be large-scale design projects that need a lot of space and will primarily benefit Interior and Industrial design. Dean Weiser will also emphasize the need for new classrooms and offices for CLA. After his last presentation to this committee, a new building was put on the University mid-range master plan for possible construction between 2015 and 2020. He wants to keep that on the radar screen and re-emphasize its importance.
3. Dr. Weiser indicated that he has requested internal nominations and applications for an inaugural director for the Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion. The dean intended to conduct a national search for a director this year, but the uncertain budget and recruiting needs within departments and schools has put that on hold. Nominations were due on October 18, 2011. The Center continues to sponsor events, including a lecture on November 17 by Professor Jen'nan Ghazal Read of Duke University, a sociologist whose research examines issues of immigration, gender, and health care. Her talk is titled "Healthy Migrants or Just Healthy Men? Gender and Health among Middle Eastern Immigrants." The talk will be held in STEW 322 at 4:30 pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Madison