

Arts & Sciences Council Minutes

April 24, 2013

Medbury Honors Lounge

Present: Joanna Mosser, Joseph Lenz, Chinh Dao, Marc Busch, Tim Knepper, Martin Roth, Amy O'Shaughnessy, Dan Alexander, Karla Kash, Joseph Schneider, Steven Lancaster, Muir Eaton, David Courard-Hauri, Curt Cardwell, Leslie Marrs, Colin Cairns, Mark Vitha, Leah Kalmanson, Carla Herling, Brian Adams-Thies, Tom Sletto, (A&S Cabinet) Maria Valdovinos, Eric Saylor, Brad Crowell

Joanna called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m., welcomed new members and expressed appreciation for service.

Dean's Report:

Meeting with Nat'l Alumni Council will focus on how they can connect students and alumni.

Drake's strategic plan—TIGs are working (direct colleges to look at multidisciplinary teaching, research and how it's considered in faculty evaluation)

Selection of 2013-2014 Council/Cabinet Chair

No nominations prior to meeting, or brought to the floor. The Council will approve a chair following the meeting using email ballot.

Minutes from February and March meetings were approved.

Appointed committee memberships for 2013-2014: unanimously approved.

The handbook calls for committees to report to council re: their activities at the end of the year. This practice will be reinstated next year.

Course approvals:

New course proposals:

- ENSP 037 (Environmental Case Analysis)
- NSCI 127 (Behavioral Genetics)
- NSCI 190C (Independent Study Capstone)
- NSCI 191C (Independent Study Capstone)
- NSCI 192 (Internship)
- NSCI 192C (internship Capstone)
- SCSS 171 (Grief and Loss)

NSCI 190C is fall semester; 191C is spring semester. Maximum enrollment is 1 for this: set up as independent study. Unanimously approved.

Course changes:

- PSY 177 (Theories of Psychotherapy)
- THEA 020 (Voice I)

- THEA 021 (Voice II)

Descriptions were outdated—faculty member with a specialty in voice, necessitated changes. Unanimously approved.

Program/Curriculum Change and New Course Proposal: ENSP

Changes to capstone: more geology, less chemistry—focus on earth science. Identifies areas of expertise that environmental policy students should have.
More collaborative effort with faculty on advisory committee: not designed by scientists.
Changes unanimously approved.

Discussion of Draft A&S Strategic Plan

Joanna: In writing the strategic plan, Cabinet kept in mind our everyday lives as teachers, scholars and committee members, and sought to rethink what we presently do rather than coming up with new endeavors. Would like Council's input: are these the right goals and objectives?

Dan: All of these are good aims, focusing on streamlining and advancing, but it seems like another thing to do during the semester on top of other commitments. Perhaps working group(s) could work on actionable items in the summer or outside of the regular semester, with remuneration for the groups involved?

Karla: The 3-2 load will be difficult for the Theatre department, many classes required, difficult to hire local adjuncts

Currently A&S has 17 departments and programs; it's not always easy to find people who are eager to step into role as chair, and there's no time to have vision for long-term change with just one course release.

We can identify and think carefully about what we ask chairs to do. Perhaps a divisional structure would work better? Currently, programs and departments are used synonymously as administrative units.

SCS was created as an intentionally interdisciplinary unit, but not recognized as such. If we eliminated departments, the college could more easily recognize intra-university collaboration.

How do we evaluate things that don't quite fit into teaching, scholarship, and service? How do we evaluate team teaching?

III/4/a: We can certainly imagine incentives that would encourage faculty to seek more grants. Jayne Smith's office is terrific at helping to fill out the app, but not the best at seeking out grants in the humanities.

Perhaps a hybrid admin position (similar to the setup in Medbury) that would help support sponsored programs office, not only finding research grant options, but also program initiatives. As a University, we have done very little in approaching foundations for program

support.

I/3/b: Suggest wording change: rather than “equalizing pay,” – instead, raise to whatever’s the highest. (J-Term or Summer) A discussion of how to do this has already been started in Dean’s Council.

Where the students are majoring—for funding, “cross-pollinate” resources.

I/5/a-d: to what extent might we utilize summer youth programs to attract other constituencies to campus? Members would like to see a point here directed toward recruitment of faculty.

Praises:

II/1/a & II/2/b: Look at governing bodies—efficiency with fewer demands on individuals. The plan is fewer than 5 pages: bravo!

Joanna: This plan does not aim to think about what we might do without considering at all how we might do it; in the back of our minds we’re considering implementation and feasibility. Cabinet created the plan thinking about what the college is in power to do in the next 5 years. These initiatives are of value and concern to us.

Members are welcome to contact Joanna or Cabinet members with additional comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31.