

## **Arts & Science Council Minutes April 23, 2008**

- Call to Order at 3:45 p.m. Members in attendance: Bohorquez, Brown, Cairns, Cramer, De Laet (Chair), Nelson, Romain, Roth, Saylor, Urness, Wirth-Cauchon; Visitors: Dean Lenz, Tom Rosburg, Charisse Buising
- Minutes for the March 26, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

### Report from Dean Lenz:

- The visit of three candidates for the Dean of Arts and Sciences position will take place in the next two weeks.
- Fall enrollment looks encouraging; the rate of tuition deposits is ahead compared to last year.
- Dean Lenz distributed a copy of the Strategic plan 2007-2010 for the College of Arts and Sciences given the fact Colin Cairns inquired about the status of the plan in several occasions,. A point was made about the lack of action taken this year. As an example item number 6 under Goal I is a responsibility of the Council which has been somewhat discussed.
- National Advisory Council will be on campus on April 25. They will provide ideas to assist the college increase the STAR fund. Also their task is to seek for mentoring/scholarship opportunities for students as well as mentoring on campus.

### Report from Council Chair:

Colin Cairns informed that UCC and John Burney will start discussing curricular plans next fall

### Unfinished Business:

Recommendation to approve proposed revisions of Law, Politics, and Society Curriculum and the Politics Major were approved unanimously. These revisions were discussed at the March 26, 2008 Council meeting but were not approved.

### New Business:

#### A. Consideration of Course Proposals:

- PSY 148, Psychology of Developmental Disabilities
- MUS 120, Shape Notes and Sacred Harps

Recommendation to approve courses was approved unanimously without discussion.

B. Consideration of proposed concentration in Primate Studies: Recommendation to approve the concentration was approved unanimously. Dean Lenz stated that the partnership between Drake University and Great Ape Trust will be officially announced.

C. Consideration of the proposed revisions to the Environmental Policy Major: Tom Rosburg provided rationale for the proposed revisions to the EPM. One important justification for the revisions to ENP is the ability to have a more flexible curriculum.

The revisions were approved unanimously subject to the following amendment: POLS001 will be a requirement for the core curriculum and POLS075 will be an elective for the international concentration.

- D. Consideration of the proposed revisions to the BCMB major: Charisse Buising explained that rationale for revisions are consistent with their professional society (American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) curriculum recommendations. Deleted classes are included in the AOI courses. The revisions were approved unanimously.
- E. Consideration of proposed changes to election procedures for service on A & S committees: This item in the agenda was an old item and should be deleted.

Open discussion:

Election of the Chair of the Curriculum Committee for next year was discussed. Debra De Laet will seek candidate for this position.

The issue of governance was once again raised. Saylor suggested that course proposals could be submitted to Curriculum Committee and finally to Cabinet. Curricular changes such as creation of majors could be submitted to Council.

Saylor and De Laet described their strategy used last year to facilitate communication and exchange of information between Cabinet and Curriculum Committee. Saylor explained that a summary about each of the courses received by Curriculum Committee was submitted to Cabinet. This approach was been very effective for different reasons including the fact Saylor did not have to attend every Cabinet meeting.

Several concerning issues were raised: (a) responsibilities of Council, Curriculum Committee should be available online and easy to find, (b) membership of Council will change considerably next year and faculty members might not be aware of traditional procedures or responsibilities, (c) perceived weak faculty governance, and (d) explanations of procedures, rules and tasks should be passed on to the next governance body.

- Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maria Bohorquez