

Arts & Sciences Council Meeting
December 3, 2008

Present: Jeff Karnicky, Renee Cramer, Nancy Reincke, Joanna Mosser, Timothy Urness, Chinh Dao, Leslie Marrs, David Courard-Hauri (presiding), Joe Lenz (ex-officio), Lucca Wang and Josh Smith (A&S student representatives).

David called the meeting to order and apologized for not sending minutes from the October meeting ahead of time. After deliberation, members of Council unanimously agreed to forgive him and to approve the minutes over email.

Report from Dean Lenz

Dean Lenz encouraged us to submit our responses to the Provost candidates. He articulated the need to meet our enrollment goals for 09/10 in order to avert unpleasant budget consequences. Next year's enrollment target is 870 (compared to 830 for this year). Making sure that visiting students have the opportunity to meet with a faculty member and/or sit in on a class are very important to the process of converting admitted students to enrolled students. He encouraged us to participate in the National Alumni Scholar Days, Feb 7 and 21. At this point, A&S numbers of admitted students are up by 50 but it is still early in the process.

Dean Lenz encouraged Council members to attend one of the open sessions on the Drake Curriculum held on Dec 4th. There was a brief discussion of the desirability of more opportunities for A&S faculty to discuss the DC as a college some time in the Spring.

Report from Council Chair

The Cabinet has been working on fleshing out the College strategic plan and Council members were grateful that David didn't share any further details at this time.

New Business

Minor course changes were approved for: BIO 95, BIO 105, HIS 67, PHIL 124, POLS 120, POLS 161.

Two new courses were approved: ENSP 127 and PHIL 137.

The proposed revision to the Musical Theater concentration was referred to Cabinet since the Dean had not yet had time to reflect upon the changes. Initial response to the proposal amongst Council was positive.

Two motions not on the agenda were approved, wording to be finalized by the proper authorities:

1. The A&S Curriculum Committee is now empowered to approve minor changes to courses (titles, number of credits, etc) without passing the proposals on to Council for an additional vote.
2. Travel seminars may now be offered for one to six credits. (They were previously limited to five credits for non-pedagogical reasons that are no longer relevant.)

Unfinished Business: proposed P&T revisions

Dean Lenz asked for consideration of a revision to 3.1.25 of the handbook, which addresses the question of scholarly/creative work done during a candidate's probationary period but prior to his/her appointment at Drake. The Council agreed with the Dean about the desirability of making this policy consistent across departments in the college rather than relying on ad hoc negotiations between candidates and departments. Council members asked if the policy might be written so as to automatically "count" work done before appointment at Drake unless an exception was applied for and granted by the Dean, thus putting the burden on departments to justify why such work should not be given attention in the tenure process. The Dean will take this suggestion back to the College P&T committee for consultation.

David briefly outlined the options for Council action with regard to the P&T task force proposal. After a thorough consideration of the implications of each option, the Council voted to separate the two substantive revisions in the proposal.

Proposition One: Eliminate the fourth category of Advising/Mentoring, evaluating these functions under Teaching and Service, as proposed. The Council unanimously voted to approve this proposal and forward it to the full faculty for a vote.

Proposition Two: Return to criteria for evaluating promotion to full professor that place equal emphasis on the three categories of teaching, scholarship/creative activity, and service. The Council unanimously abstained in the vote to approve this proposal, thus forwarding it to the full faculty for a vote without presuming to make what we believed should be decided with full faculty representation.

The meeting was adjourned with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted if not submissive,
Nancy Reincke, minute-taker for December 3rd