

A&S Council Minutes February 29, 2012

Present: Elizabeth Robertson, Joe Lenz, Colin Cairns, Mahmoud Hamad, Joanna Riley, Brian Adams-Thies, Amy O'Shaughnessy, Muir Eaton, Brad Crowell, Mary McCarthy, Grady McGrannahan, Leslie Marrs.

Elizabeth called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

1/25/12 meeting minutes

Elizabeth called attention to an incomplete sentence in the January 25th minutes. Members of the Council asked that the 1/25/12 Council minutes be amended to read: *"PSY 044: Members of the council confirmed that the course has no exclusions."*

Dean's report

Joe reported that the J-Term fair was a smashing success, hundreds of students were interested, particularly in the travel courses, and registration request forms are streaming into the office.

Elections for college committees are in progress, with just a few races remaining.

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of students who have need of counseling services, medications, and other mental health services. Joe will be sending out information to all faculty in the college requesting they participate in an online program addressing early recognition of students who may be experiencing psychological issues (depression, suicide risks, etc.) Joe asked that Council members encourage fellow faculty to participate.

Searches: Art & Design had a search underway to fill Sarah McCoy's position, and with Hilary Williams' recent resignation the search will now be filling two positions in Graphic Design. The Math Education search continues, and hopes to have a candidate finalized soon.

Admissions: Admissions has received over 250 more applications than at this point last year, and has admitted ~400 more students than were admitted at this point in 2011. Drake is running ahead in terms of tuition deposits as well, compared to last year, and while there won't be a concrete number for the first-year class until May, things look encouraging for now. The first-year classes in the past few years have ranged from 800 to 900. Admissions is aiming for 850 in next year's first-year class.

Cabinet is working its way through the A&S Handbook and noting policies that are in place that the College doesn't necessarily follow (i.e. a general meeting of the full faculty at least once per semester, college committee making a report to Council at least once a year) to determine whether the policies should be followed or changed in the handbook.

A&S Handbook revision question

Joe distributed a handout describing how the A&S faculty handbook outlines how the chair is chosen for each A&S standing committee. At present, the strategy used to elect chairs to committees varies widely. Cabinet plans to begin examining the policies for A&S committee chair election, so Joe asked if Council members had strong opinions as to whether the chair selection policies should be changed (establish some consistency, or leave things "catch as catch can.")

Grady asked if Joe has a sense of what other colleges do; Joe said that in most cases, members of committees decide their own chair. The logic behind Curriculum and Technology chair selection (individual serving in his/her 3rd year shall be chair) is that the chair would have a sense of how things have functioned in the past.

Elizabeth expressed particular concern with Cabinet appointing a chair of Academic Integrity. Mahmoud suggested that the most senior faculty member might serve as the chair of Academic Integrity and other committees; others noted that this might mean that that individual would serve as chair of each committee he or she serves. Grady suggested that all committees elect the chair except for Academic Integrity, which does not meet on a regular basis.

New Course Proposals

ENG 132: Dickens in London

This is a J-Term travel seminar. Leslie noted that Pharmacy and Law are excluded under "College," while question #7 clarifies that the course is open to all students. Colin assessed that the answer to question 7 gives sufficient clarity.

The course was unanimously approved.

ENSP 168: Dynamic Environmental Modeling

The course was unanimously approved with no discussion.

POLS 133: The Middle East Through Films

Brian asked what Mahmoud plans to do if students were uncomfortable with the R rating of some of the films shown. Mahmoud said he has made it clear that students should consider taking another course if they object to the R-rated content. Mahmoud will accept non-degree students in his course; he will make the small change to question #7 and submit a revised proposal to Amy. Grady asked if the course needs to go back to UCC for approval with the change; Joe and Elizabeth defined that since it's not a curricular change it won't need re-approval from UCC.

The course was unanimously approved

PSY 090-091: Independent Study

This course was approved by Curriculum committee in December but Olga did not make changes until February.

The course was unanimously approved.

THEA 114 – Classic American Film

Elizabeth drew Council's attention to the plagiarism statement in the course syllabus: "**Plagiarism And Cheating: You know what that is so... don't do it... in any form. You will fail the course.**"

Members agreed that the lightness with which the statement is written is problematic. Brian noted that in his experience, many students actually do not necessarily know what plagiarism is, so he has discomfort in the way the issue is addressed. Brad noted that since responses will be posted online rather than submitted as a formal paper, perhaps students might take these assignments more lightly as well.

After discussion, the Council determined that since the handbook does not have specific requirements for addressing plagiarism in course syllabi, there is no required course of action. However, members of the Council feel that if plagiarism is addressed in the syllabus, it should not be stated flippantly. The

Council strongly encourages revision of the plagiarism statement to include referral to the college's academic integrity policy.

This course is unanimously approved.

Course Change Proposals

Colin asked if the courses need approval or just notification, Amy clarified that courses changing the title or course number don't need approval, just notification, but any other changes to the course need approval.

BIOCHEM 130: Biochemistry

ENSP 111: International Environmental Seminar

MUS 181: Chamber Music

POLS 193-194: Internship in Politics

These course changes were unanimously approved.

The following course changes are reported, but because they are changes to title/number, do not need approval:

HIST 133-HIST135: History of Imperial Russia, 19th Century Europe

PHIL 128: Language & Reality

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.