

Meeting Minutes
Arts and Sciences Council
September 24, 2008

Present: Jeff Karnicky, Renee Cramer, Joanna Moser, Timothy Urness, Josh Smith, Nancy Reinecke, Leslie Marrs, Jim Romaine, Joe Lenz, Dina Smith, Chinh Dao

David Courard-Hauri called the meeting to order.

The meeting minutes from April 23, 2008 were approved.

Report from Dean Lenz:

Report on the several searches currently ongoing within Arts and Sciences.

Reiteration of, and elaboration upon, the Provost's announcement regarding retention rates from last year.

Report on attempts by Admissions to reach the 830 incoming first year students for fall 2009 – which may be hard as we're already 50% above normal application rates for this time of year.

There are increasing opportunities for students to work with alumni, expanding into the spring. This is in part in response to faculty input on the strategic plan, which indicated that faculty wanted alumni participation in ways beyond fiduciary.

Joe took questions.

Report from Council Chair:

Brief overview of what Council actually does, how it is in relationship with other faculty governance bodies, and its process.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business

A. Chair appointment for A&S Curriculum Committee

Cabinet has recommended that we have a tenured member of the Council serve as Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

David Courard-Hauri opened this recommendation for discussion. There was much discussion, including a synopsis of what Curriculum Committee does, and the role of the Chair.

Dina Smith was nominated to be Chair; the motion was seconded, and a vote taken.

Dina Smith is the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee for 2008-2009.

B. Promotion and Tenure Review Committee Report

David and Joe introduced the committee's report with a discussion of the P&T Task Force's inception, initiated out of the Dean's office in response to P&T Committee, and other, concerns.

The P&T Task Force made two recommendations, which were elaborated upon by David, as well as members of the Task Force. The first recommendation relocates advising and mentoring within the P&T documents; the second removes a previously allowed emphasis on "service" for promotion to Professor.

David Courard-Hauri outlined Council's possible responses: we could accept it as is, discuss it, or reject it.

Nancy Reinke suggested that we open the discussion to include members of the Task Force (present at this meeting) as well as Mark Vitha, who attended the meeting as an interested faculty member. Mark offered a synopsis of his concerns with the second proposal; Joseph Schneider (a member of the Task Force) inquired as to the proper procedural route for dealing with the document.

Much discussion followed, and most of it centered on the second proposal.

Joe proposed taking the recommendations to the chairs, asking the chairs to take it to the departments, and asking Council to devote a significant portion of our next meeting to the proposal. We discussed how to best request feedback from dept. chairs.

Motion and second and vote to adjourn.