

## **A&S Council Minutes**

September 26, 2012

Present: Joanna Mosser, Joe Lenz, Amy O'Shaughnessy, Muir Eaton, Chinh Dao, Marc Busch, Eric Manley, Tim Knepper, Curt Cardwell, Karla Kash, Colin Cairns (curriculum chair), Joseph Schneider, Leslie Marrs, Michael Terrell (FA Senator) Dan Pfeifle (AS Senator), Marc Cadd.

Joanna called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Minutes from 4/25/12 were unanimously approved.

### **Dean's report:**

Construction between Cline and Harvey-Ingham: H-I 129 is being renovated into a biophysics and modern physics classroom thanks to donor and University funds. HI-129 will be ready for action in the spring term, and is the first in a series of renovations in this building.

This year brings four searches in the College of Arts & Sciences: Art –Graphic Design, Math—Math Education, and LPS, (replacements for 3 faculty who have left) and a new line in chemistry. This new line is the only non-replacement faculty line granted to any University department.

Joe has been meeting with various groups to develop the College Strategic Plan: discussions at August workshop, A&S Chairs (re: goal II), this Friday will meet with National Alumni Council (re: community outreach), and meeting with college staff next week (re: goal II). Joe will meet with the A&S Student Advisory Council regarding the strategic plan later this month. Council will also play a significant role in shaping the College's strategic plan.

### **12 new courses for approval:**

Joanna asked Colin to speak to the procedure Curriculum uses to evaluate courses. Colin noted that Curriculum's charge is singular: "to evaluate in light of the educational goals of the College of Arts proposals for course changes, deletions and modifications presented by departments and programs, and make recommendations to the Arts & Sciences Council on these proposals."

Colin asked if it would be worthwhile to create a document to define the educational goals of the College, and also raised the questions: Do we offer too many courses in the College? Should we change the charge of the Curriculum Committee? Is there a reason to expound the charge of the committee to include assessment?

Joseph Schneider said he doesn't see value in creating a document based on the College mission statement. He inquired about what procedures Curriculum uses in their meetings. Colin responded that Curriculum trusts that the departments have done their job; that the information on the proposal forms is accurate and appropriate. The form sets the expectations for a course, though members of the Curriculum committee may not know best practices in each department they now have required a complete syllabus with each course proposal.

Joanna proposed setting a provisional agenda: all Curriculum approvals would appear on a separate provisional agenda each month, and when many courses seek approval each Council

member would be assigned to review a limited number of courses. During the portion of the Council meeting devoted to the Provisional Agenda the courses would be presumptively approved. Joanna posited that this approach to the course review process would make it more meaningful if each person was assigned to only one or two courses, and would also trust departments to make decisions regarding the details of their courses.

The provisional agenda was approved by Council and will only govern this Council (2012-2013 academic year).

### **Course Approvals**

Marc Cadd was present to discuss ASL proposals. Last spring, Drake acquired a \$250,000 endowment to support ASL courses on language and culture. Beginning 2013-2014, Drake will offer 2-3 language courses per year and a separate course on deaf culture. WLC has not yet hired the adjunct who will teach these classes but Mark has been in touch with a Drake grad who is teaching at Gallaudet, a premier school for the deaf in the U.S.

These twelve new courses were unanimously approved:

- a. ART 123, Critters 101, offered in Spring 2013 (Battle)**
- b. ASL 001, American Sign language I, offered in Fall 2013 (Instructor TBA)**
- c. ASL 002, American Sign language II, offered in Spring 2014 (Instructor TBA)**
- d. BIO 92/92L, Introduction to Ethnobotany, offered in Spring 2013 (Ross)**
- e. BIO 093L, Lab Assistant, offered in Fall 2012 (Sleister & Eaton)**
- f. CS 188, Software Engineering, offered in Spring 2013 (Urness)**
- g. HIST 186, History of the Environment, offered in Spring 2013 (Mallea)**
- h. HIST 187, History of the American West, offered in Spring 2013 (Mallea)**
- i. HIST 188, Urban Environmental History, offered in Fall 2013 (Mallea)**
- j. PSY 190C, Independent Study Capstone, fall semester course**
- k. PSY191C, Independent Study Capstone, spring semester course**
- l. PSY192C, Internship Capstone, fall and spring semesters**

Joe added in response to Colin's statement, that in light of Council's provisional agenda procedures, the oversight of Curriculum Committee becomes even more important. The committee should consider whether the course is consistent with the department's goals, if the department has resources to offer the course. In any given 4-year period, every course that the college has should be offered.

The course change was unanimously approved:

- a. PSY 196, Topical Seminar, offered in Spring 2013 (Valdovinos)**

### **Council's Agenda for Fall 2012**

Joanna noted that this is a particularly important time of transition as A&S and all colleges are charged with functioning within the goals of the University strategic plan and establishing their own goals relative to the University plan. Cabinet would like Council's assistance in establishing

the content of the new plan.

The University Strategic plan was endorsed last week by Faculty and Student senate. The document Arts & Sciences will produce by Spring 2013 will shape where time, personnel, energy, and funds go. Joanna's vision is for this creation process to be as engaging and inclusive as possible. The August A&S faculty meeting was first step, but a document created by just 40 members of the college faculty is not yet at a point to be narrowed down.

Joanna asked Council members to consult with their constituencies and distributed a list of questions Council members might to use (or not) in doing some consulting. In particular, the question to ask: "What's distinctive about the contribution we can make, and our interpretation of the University document, as a liberal arts college?"

The bulk of conversation at the October meeting will be reports from different divisions: priorities for the college for the next 4-5 years.

Chinh proposed a survey tool for gathering opinions. Joanna said that members are welcome to create a survey for their own area but since the group still is generating ideas a survey might be better for later on in the process; conversing will likely be most productive strategy at this early stage. Council members should feel free to use or discard the provided questions.

Joe said that this strategic plan is different from previous University strategic plans. It's less about lists and more introspective, asking how we might do things differently. Joe cited the conversation Council had earlier in the meeting as part of Goal II: provide due diligence and time, but are we overanalyzing? Where are we getting in our own way?

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.