COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND APPLIED ARTS MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2012

Attendance:

Present: Owen Smith, Ronald Tumelson, Alan Baily, Louise Stoehr, Sarah Savoy, Ray Darville, Karol Chandler-Ezell, Wilma Cordova, Ken Collier, Rhiannon Fante, Sam Copeland, Linda Bond, Al Greule, Sudeshna Roy (for Ty Spradley)

1. Approval of minutes from meeting on 1-23-2012

Ray Darville moved to accept the minutes from January 23, 2012 with edits.
2nd – Louise Stoehr
Yes – 11
No – 0
Abstain – 0

2. Review of information from the Chairs Council meeting (2-6-2012)

Owen Smith provided a brief overview of key items from the CLAA Chairs’ Council Meeting held on 6 February.
1) Dean Murphy reminded chairs about the Undergraduate Research Conference and requested departmental nominations to serve on a committee for the Bright Ideas Conference.
2) Upcoming deadlines for assessment were announced; a template for rubric assessment at departmental level will be developed by Drs. Jerry Williams and Mark Sanders. University will no longer host convocation for incoming freshmen; instead, each college will be allocated funds to host its own event for these students.
3) Dean Murphy reminded chairs that faculty evaluations are due 14 February; he also asked for feedback on the college’s Strategic Plan. The dean would like each department to develop a two-year rotation plan for course offerings in order to facilitate student’s mapping their schedules.
4) Dean Murphy asked the chairs if they had questions about the summer budget. A concern arose that some adjunct salaries will be higher than some tenure-track faculty members for summer courses.
5) Dean Murphy invited feedback on the Honors Banquet’s format; the chairs agreed to keep the format the same; deadlines for nominations is 14 April.
6) A tenure committee requested clarification from the Dean, the Chairs’ Council, and College Council on what constitutes a “peer reviewed” publication. (See 3 below.)
7) Dean Murphy updated the chairs on the Kilgore sustainable-living project, informed them that the college’s Middle East conference is on track for the fall, and invited faculty applications for the study abroad consortium.
3. Discussion of the establishment of College-wide criteria for peer-reviewed publications

1) There was strong support in the Council that the term “peer review” be defined by each department/discipline/program.

• For some departments/disciplines/programs, this term is already defined by professional organizations (such as the American Psychological Association)

• The Council noted that peer review is only one form of external validation of scholarly/creative work; in the Council’s view, other forms of external validation should be acknowledged as well as peer review

2) The Council expressed concern with a lack of context for the question. Why is the definition of “peer review” a problem? Whose problem is it? N.B. Council members did not have a first-hand familiarity with a specific problem arising from confusion about this term.

3) The Council pointed out that if there was imprecision within the tenure/promotion documents of a particular department, the Dean could mandate that the department modify their documents to include more precise language.

4) The Council was uncertain where a definition of “peer review” would be included in college policy documents.

5) Several Council members expressed concern that a college-wide definition of “peer review” would be the first step in the development of mandatory College-wide tenure requirements.

4. Additional Business

Owen Smith reminded College Council that the next meeting would be directly after Spring Break on 19 March.

Wilma Cordova moved the meeting adjourn.

2nd – Ray Darville
Yes – 11
No – 0
Abstain - 0