Minutes
College of Liberal and Applied Arts College Council
March 19, 2014; 2:00 p.m.; Boynton 104

Attending: Dr. Linda Bond, Chair; Dr. Louise Stoehr, Dr. Al Greule, Dr. Ben Dixon, Dr. Alan Baily, Dr. Steve Taaffe, Dr. Dana Cooper, Dr. Latoya Wesley, Dr. Elizabeth Spradley, Dr. Sharon Eaves, Dr. Lee Payne, Dr. Denise Millstein, Dr. Kim Rich-Rice. Ex Officio: Dr. Marc Guidry (Associate Dean).

- Dr. Bond called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

- A motion was introduced to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- The meeting opened with brief reports from council members representing the constituent departments in the college.

- Report from Faculty Senate president Dana Cooper: At the council’s February meeting Dr. Cooper drew attention to a recent Daily Sentinel article, as well as her response, regarding the relationship between low faculty salaries and faculty retention at SFA. This month she reports that there has been little administrative action on the issue; however, there has been some renewed discussion. On a related note, the Senate also introduced a proposal to increase the tuition fund for faculty dependents.

  At the March meeting Fred Hayes of the Nacogdoches Independent School District will be present to discuss a proposal to build new public schools and other NISD-related matters.

- Dr. Bond’s report from the Chair’s meeting:
  - HEF funds are available for the maintenance and improvement of facilities.
  - A tuition and fee increase has not yet been set for the next academic year. The Board is experiencing significant resistance to further tuition and/or fee increases. Still, increases may be necessary for the university to maintain its budget, due in part to unfunded obligations imposed by the Hazelwood Act.
  - While increases may be inevitable, it is not likely that a rise in tuition and/or fees would be sufficient to raise faculty pay. Aside from this, three strategies to generate a pay increase have been introduced. They are:
    - A significant increase in enrollment.
• A reduction of adjunct faculty positions along with redistribution of the teaching load among full-time faculty.
• Eliminating course reductions and other exceptions to faculty members’ regular teaching load.

• Certificate programs: Certificate programs within the college are doing well. It may be advisable for programs within the college to consider creating new certificate programs. Such programs seem to be especially appealing to non-traditional and returning students.

• Pre-law Experience: Presently, 13 students are registered to participate in the college’s inaugural “Pre-law Experience.” (25 enrollees are needed for the program to make, 35 if it is to break even.) The Provost will likely allow the camp (or “experience”) to run at a loss this year. At least one faculty member from each department in the college will feature in the program.

• Archie McDonald Speaker Series: Lyle Lovett is this year’s featured speaker. The event is April 10.

• Integrated Reading and Writing (IRW): This new course combines two remedial courses, addressing reading and writing respectively, into one “integrated” course. The move to IRW is the result of a statewide mandate. Formerly the two courses were housed in Education and English; going forward, IRW courses will be divided between the two departments. We can anticipate challenges in developing a course that addresses both reading and writing skills effectively (not to speak of dividing instruction between different programs within different colleges).

• Other:
  o The college is placing renewed emphasis on distance education.
  o Service Learning grants are available. Contact Kay Custer for information.

• Meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.