



College of Liberal & Applied Arts Chair Council Minutes

May 4, 2009

The meeting began at 2:32pm in room 273D of the Ferguson Building. The people in attendance included the following:

Dr. Rick Abel (Government)
Dr. Freddie Avant (Social Work)
Dr. Mark Barringer (Associate Dean)
Dr. Ray Darville (Communication)
Dr. Troy Davis (History)
Ms. Dixie Groll (Dean's Assistant)
Mr. Perry Moon (College Council)
Dr. Brian Murphy (Dean)
LTC Todd Reichert (Military Science)
Dr. Mark Sanders (English and Philosophy)
Dr. Kandy Stahl (Psychology)
Dr. Jerry Williams (Sociology)

Dean Brian Murphy reminded the chairs that (1) departmental strategic planning documents, which include assessment methods, are due by semester's end and (2) teaching load equivalencies for the College will be discussed at the chair's retreat during the summer. He noted that the topic of grade inflation was reviewed briefly at the recent meeting of the Board of Regents but no action was taken.

Dean Murphy alerted chairs that advising during summer orientations would be the responsibility of the individual departments because the College's Advising Office does not have the personnel to accommodate the demand. The College's Advising Office personnel, however, would be available to assist the departments.

Dean Murphy informed the chairs that class cancellation for short courses during May-Mester would occur on May 15. This date is earlier than last year to provide adequate notice to students. He requested chairs to advise faculty members who currently have low pre-registration numbers about the cancellation policy for May-Mester.

Dr. Jerry Williams discussed the report submitted by the ad hoc Curriculum Committee. The committee solicited input on its draft report in an open faculty forum, with about 30 faculty members in attendance. The only divisive issue in the forum involved the recommendation to require a foreign language in all BA degrees in the College. The final report, supported unanimously by the committee, is largely identical to the draft report except for a statement on the importance of maintaining COM 111 as a College requirement.

Dean Murphy notified chairs that separate meetings would be arranged with chairs to discuss follow-up steps on their departmental graduate program reviews. Graduate coordinators will be asked to attend the discussion. Discussion turned to the date for the chairs retreat at the end of the summer. It was decided that a *tentative* date of August 26 will be established, subject to confirmation by each chair on availability. The retreat will focus on a few broad issues rather than an agenda congested with an array of topics.

It was announced that the ad committees on the faculty club and mentorship program will make their reports at the June meeting of the Chairs Council. Dr. Williams provided an update on the university committee investigating the process by which student course evaluations are conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14.