Minutes

Dr. Moon opened the meeting at 2:30. He asked for a volunteer to serve as secretary for the council’s fall semester meetings; Dr. Ericka Hoagland volunteered. Items discussed during the council meeting were as follows:

1. Travel Funds
   a. No cuts in the budget for this fiscal year; however, because most lines from last year were filled, there is less money for travel funds. This means around $800 per faculty member. After regular distribution, about $10,000 is left over, or roughly $1000 per department. The question is raised regarding whether the Dean should be in charge of distribution of remaining funds. John Boyd moves to accept this proposal; John McDermott seconds. Motion is PASSED with 1 abstention.

2. Curriculum changes, modifications, and proposals
   a. Review of proposals and changes to begin with next meeting on October 12th.

3. College Council Constitution
   a. The current constitution requires review, particularly regarding allocation of seats and parity in representation. Currently, there are sixteen members on the council, as well as representatives from military science. Julie Harrelson-Stephens to head committee to look at the constitution. John Boyd and Owen Smith volunteer to serve on this committee.

4. College Curriculum Committee
   a. Dr. Moon opens discussion on the College Curriculum Committee’s recommendations, particularly regarding bringing the core requirements for the BA and BS into greater alignment. Dr. Moon identified what he felt were the items from the committee’s recommendations that were more immediately actionable than the other recommendations (taken directly from the committee’s recommendations, these items were highlighted in bold in the handout distributed to the council): 1) we support the proposal now before the university to require at least two semesters of a foreign language in the university core for all Bachelor of Arts degrees; 4) Courses accepted in the core curriculum should satisfy either BA or BS requirements; 6) Departments should be allowed the option of reducing requirements to 15 hours in minors that they offer; and 7) The current writing enhanced requirements need to be
revised. We support the idea that all departments should have substantial writing components embedded in their major requirements.

1. A general discussion followed. Several issues regarding the recommendations were raised, including how these recommendations will affect the typical student in the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, how transfer students will pose particular challenges to some of these recommendations (including #1 and #4), and how everyone should meet the same college core requirements if they are receiving a degree from a particular college.

2. Dr. Roy then asked Dr. Moon why the four items were highlighted in the document distributed to the council. He replied that after discussing the committee’s recommendations with Dean Murphy, Dr. Moon determined that items 1, 4, 6, and 7 were what he felt were the clearest, and what could be voted on now, while the other items were suggestions he felt needed more development.

   a. The discussion which followed focused on whether it was better to vote on all the suggestions at the same time, or piecemeal. During this discussion, it was pointed out that some items, such as #5 reflected principles, while items such as #6 were proposals.

   b. Dr. Collier then suggested that perhaps the council should vote on whether all eight were valid recommendations, but some council members expressed concerns about voting on recommendations that were rather abstract.

   c. Dr. McDermott suggested that the committee clarify their recommendations before the council voted on any item outlined in the document. Dr. Dahmas suggested that the committee vote on the recommendations generally, and then proceed.

3. The committee thus began to address the recommendations, starting with the foreign language requirement. After a general discussion, during which Dr. Barringer pointed out the importance of looking at the degree plans for both the BA and the BS before voting on the foreign language requirement, which poses particular problems for Criminal Justice and Communications majors, the following was proposal regarding the rewording of the recommendation: remove the phrase “at least two semesters” and replace with “proficiency” and remove the phrase “in the university core.” “Proficiency” was understood to mean at least up to the 132 level. John McDermott moved to approve these changes; Julie Harrelson Stephens seconded. The motion was PASSED with one abstention.

4. Dr. Barringer suggested that a list of “other communication courses” should be established to clarify the second recommendation of the committee. Dr. Barringer stressed that while uniformity is important, there will not be total uniformity regarding this, or the other items recommended by the committee. He suggested that the
committee should come up with a proposed BA and BS degree plan. Dr. Taafe made a motion for the committee to develop the items in their proposal together and come back to the council; Dr. Harrelson Stephens seconded. This motion was PASSED unanimously.

5. Dr. Barringer pointed out that #4 was unrelated to the others; Dr. Harrelson Stephens moved to accept this recommendation as it; Dr. McDermott seconded. This motion was PASSED unanimously.