

College of Liberal and Applied Arts  
College Council

Meeting date: Monday, September 27, 2010

Time and Location: 2:30 pm in Ferguson 184.

Council members attending were: Carol Chandler Ezell, Wilma Cordova, Ken Collier, John Dahmus, Rhiannon Fante, Captain Kwang Fricke, Julie Harrelson-Stephens, Ericka Hoagland, Gabriela Miranda-Recinos, Perry Moon, Jeff Roth, Sarah Savoy, Peter Simbi, Owen Smith, Ty Spradley, Steve Taafe, Ronald Tumalson.

Also attending was Dr. Marc Barringer from the Dean's Office.

Dr. Dahmus called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

Ken Collier moved that the minutes from the last meeting (April 26, 2010) be approved. Julie Harrelson-Stevens seconded. The motion was approved 16 yes, 1 abstention.

Dr. Dahmus opened the meeting with a discussion of tenure-promotion standards for scholarship within the college. Dr. Dahmus explained that standards varied greatly among departments. There was some discussion of English Department's standards because it was unclear whether the department's standards required or recommended scholarship.

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Dr. Dahmus next presented the draft document for the College's Strategic Direction. Professor Moon explained that the document was the result of discussions at the last chairs' retreat (August 18). Some members felt that the strategic directions were underspecified and that they lacked a rationale. Dr. Chandler Ezell made a motion that the Council respond by saying that the Council is interested in further discussion about the strategic directions with the Dean. Dr. Collier seconded the motion. The motion was approved 13-2 with 1 abstention.

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Dr. Dahmus next presented the proposed Annual Faculty Evaluation Instrument form. A discussion ensued about the directions for evaluating teaching. Professor Moon made a motion that the following sentence be deleted from the document: "Teaching effectiveness, based on SACS accreditation standards, should be determined by the amount of student learning that takes place in the class." Dr. Harrelson-Stevens seconded. The motion was by approved 15 votes with 2 abstentions.

There was further discussion about the language for evaluation of scholarship. Dr. Tomalson suggested that the sentence "Annual scholarship productivity will be determined by the quality and significance of publication/creative accomplishment" raised an issue because chairs are not necessarily experts in all of their faculty member's fields. It was also pointed out that that the

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same sentence suggests that the evaluation of scholarship is only based on publications and creative work. Dr. Harrelson-Stevens moved that the Council recommend that the word “publications” be replaced with the word “scholarly.” Dr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 15 votes with 2 abstentions.

With respect to the evaluation of teaching, Dr. Smith asked if the comparative data should not be broken down by program. Dr. Smith moved that the word “department” be replaced by the words “program/department.” Dr. Harrelson-Stevens seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 12 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

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Dr. Dahmus summarized several items of discussion from the last chairs’ meeting. Dr. Dahmus pointed out that the Dean and the chairs have adopted several suggestions from the Council regarding the process for tenure and promotion.

At the chair’s meeting the dean also noted that the administration does not favor second majors, but that there was no plan to eliminate them for now. The Council discussed the possibility of encouraging double majors, rather second majors. Dr. Barringer said that the university does not currently allow for the possibility of a double-major. Dr. Dahmus agreed that the Council would return to the subject of second majors.

Other items from the chairs’ meeting included HEAF, the College’s new faculty research center, summer teaching, a faculty club, and development funds. Dr. Dahmus reported that HEAF would probably not be cut, but that spending on classrooms would be prioritized. Faculty may access the research center by asking their chairs for the password. The Dean encourages faculty to develop on-line courses for the summer to off-set likely reductions in summer salaries. And development funds for the current fiscal year would likely be cut by 20 %.

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The Council next took up new course proposals from Psychology and the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis.

Dr. Dahmus pointed out that the Beginning Date on the forms for the Sociology proposals should be changed from Fall 2010 to Fall 2011. Professor Moon pointed out that the proposal for Sociology 379 needs a new syllabus with the new course description. He also noted that the proposal form for Psychology 497 needs to have the correct CIP code.

The question was raised whether the new prerequisites for PSY 497 would not make it easier for underclassmen to register for the class. Professor Moon also asked why the course type was listed as a lecture class rather than a seminar. Dr. Savoy agreed to take these questions back to the Psychology Department.

Dr. Chandler-Ezell moved to approve the three Sociology course proposals. Professor Cordova seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 14 votes with 1 abstention.

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Dr. Collier suggested that the Dean be invited to future meetings to help clarify issues and improve communication between the Council and the Dean.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35.