

Faculty Senate Minutes February 11, 2010

Senators absent: Hildreth, Lonergan, Olsen, Scott, Storl, Youngberg, Ericson, Geedey, VanSandt, Wegman-Geedey, Daniels, Warren.

Senators excused: Goebel, Stone, Nabhan-Warren, Gillette, Mahn, Morse, Tracy.

The minutes from the last meeting are not yet posted and thus cannot be approved.

The following items on the consent agenda are considered approved.

- Computer Science Curricular Changes
- WGST Major/Minor Revision (incl. RELG 323)
- New Course: CSC 491: Senior Inquiry Presentation
- New Course: LSFY 103: Crime and Social Commentary in Stieg Larsson's "Millenium" Trilogy [Lindgren]
- New Course: LSFY 103: Movements and Displacements: Latin/o Music, Migrations, and Identity [Masterson-Algar]
- New Course: LSFY 103: Grey Matters: Thinking Beyond Black and White [Myers]
- New Course: POLS 490: Senior Inquiry
- New Course: ACCT 200: Accounting Fundamentals
- New Course: PSYC 230: Domestic Violence Advocacy
- Learning Community: Drawing Fiction [Xiao/Daniels]
ART 302 and ENGL 202
- London Summer Internship Program for Business Administration Majors
- Pre-Library and Information Science Advising Program
ITS Upgrade Information Report
- 2009-10 Winter Term Adjusted Academic Calendar
- Enrollment Committee Proposal
- Faculty Senate Winter Report
 - Candidates for Graduation Winter Term 2009-2010
 - Standards for Graduation with Honors for 2009-2010
- Contract Major: Maggie Hayes: Global Ethnography

Steve Bahls spoke about the interim dean search. He has circulated a memo on the process for the interim and permanent dean appointment process. He pointed out that senior officers normally come and go in our field. This is a time for us to reflect where we are and where we want to go in the academic program. We need more reflection so that we can determine if we are going in the right direction when we get a new dean. We should consider if there are initiatives to add, delete, or tweak. This is a time to look at the strategic plan generally. The board sees no need for a new comprehensive strategic plan but we do need to consider how we define and measure excellence. We should consider what we have done well in the last five years and what we could change.

Bahls talked about the process of finding a permanent dean. He will work with Nominations and Rules to determine a process and define the role of faculty. He expects there to be an 11-member committee; in accordance with AAUP standards, faculty will have the majority of membership on the committee. Other committee members will be appointed by the president, who will seek to find a gender balance. The committee might include administrators, students, and possibly board members. He will use a consultant to help run the process. Both internal and external candidates will be considered. He hopes to complete the search by this time next year. Bahls intends to use as his main criterion who will best advance student learning. Given the competitive atmosphere in college admissions, the college needs to offer outstanding learning experiences. We need a dean who will keep the trains running and who understands budgets, but these aren't ends in themselves. Faculty must be able to trust the dean, but this too is not an end but a path to the end. He hopes to have a committee appointed by March 8 or perhaps later in March.

Bahls then spoke about the search for an interim dean. He hopes to make an appointment by the end of this month (February) in order to have a seamless transition to the interim dean. The college will be starting its budget process for next year soon; unlike previous years in which we started earlier, we should have a budget in place by May. The interim dean should be able to work with Jeff Abernathy on the budget. Bahls hopes to find someone who can hit the ground running. He does not expect the interim dean to have a strong agenda; rather, the role of the interim dean is to get us through until we get a permanent dean. Discussion of major issues such as curriculum change and faculty load can continue in the meantime, but it is unrealistic to expect the interim dean to come to conclusions on these issues. Bahls will consult with several groups to determine appropriate attributes of an interim dean. He does not expect to do campus interviews for this dean. Bahls asked if faculty agreed that interim dean should help hold the course and noted that he saw many heads nod in agreement.

Discussion then turned to a motion from EPC on the tabled motion on graphic design.

Quinn described some additions to the proposal. Among other things, the proposal now includes a report from a consultant from North Central College on how to make a graphic design program that's a good fit in a liberal arts college. The cover letter also lists other changes. The art department has started to add courses that will be taught next year if the new major is approved, namely typography and an introduction to contemporary art and graphics. These courses are moving through division and will then go on to EPC for approval. They removed the requirement of one of the studio art classes in order to make the major less heavy. They named more specifically required courses in communication studies and computer science. They revised recommended supporting courses. The exact composition of the major will depend on who gets hired and what his or her skills are; the level of programming that will be required will depend on the new colleague. Other courses such as a second typography course and others are not yet in the works. The name has been changed from "graphic design and communication" to "graphic design."

No questions or comments were made after Quinn's presentation, and the proposal was approved.

Crowe then discussed the immersion term trials. He said that the Teagle grant is broader than just immersion terms and thought that faculty needed to know more about the current Teagle grant, "Teagle 3."

Farrar explained that Teagle 3 is larger than immersion terms. It's a modest but interesting grant. The central focus is student learning and faculty work and the interaction between them. It's not just about

“learning communities on steroids” but intends to study the amount of work involved in doing such programs. The grant is designed to prompt that conversation. The question is, are we interesting in having more of these experiences, and if so, how can we do that given the sizable faculty work load. The hope is to prompt that discussion, and immersion terms are a vehicle for that.

Peters asked what Augustana’s share of the grant is.

Abernathy: \$150,000 is split among seven colleges. We can’t go beyond the two immersion terms that we’re trying or we’ll go beyond the grant.

Crowe asked if the grant could also support other initiatives.

Farrar replied that the grant language mentions faculty experiments or innovations in high impact practices related to existing or new structures. We want to know if there are ways to help faculty assess student learning in existing structures.

Bengtson asked about the Board’s response to this project.

Abernathy replied that there was much enthusiasm, perhaps because faculty were there to talk about their goals and demonstrate their enthusiasm for the project.

Farrar confirmed that the board was very excited about the project. She added that General Education and EPC have been considering this.

Fowler pointed out that the registration schedule had been modified to accommodate a Colleague server upgrade. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday there will be open registration. The system will be down Tuesday and Wednesday so there will be no registration. The system should be back up on Thursday, at which time students can again access registration and grade recording can also take place.

Jensen asked if there was a backup plan in the event the upgrade failed.

Fowler answered that Datatel does the server change. Our IT department does have a backup plan.

Crowe mentioned the possibility of investing in a portal system, or a computer-based individualized desktop that can be used to manage groups and advising. There are issues regarding the product including how to pay for it. Chris Vaughan was expected to be here to discuss this today but he is not, so that presentation will have to wait.

Bahls discussed the meeting of the board of trustees. The meeting took place in Chicago rather than someplace warmer because of the economic crisis, and there was no formal banquet on first night as is typical. He said it was a good meeting on the topic whether the college needs a new strategic plan. The board generally believes that the college does not need a new one. We need to evaluate the assumptions underlying our current plan. We need to be more aggressive in recruiting non-traditional students. The board endorses initiatives among faculty to create peak experiences for students. The plan is to work with Bob Haak and the CVR to discuss what excellence is and how we can measure it. This discussion will morph into the dean search process. The spirit of the board meeting was good. The board appreciates faculty participation. The feeling among the board is that faculty and administration have responded well to economic pressures. It would have been nice to have crisper conclusions from them.

The president will go back to the board in May with an analysis of non-traditional recruitment and our discussion of how to define excellence.

Crowe confirmed that presentations from Kevin Geedey and Rueben Heine were very helpful. More chilling was the discussion by Barnes and Snowball on the demographic downfall that will mean admissions challenges for the college. Four populations where we might focus our energy are international students, local students, students of color, and students from out of state or farther away.

Douglas discussed the General Education Committee's work on Evergreen 2, which was approved this year. General education is working to increase Learning Community seats. The prospects are now looking better. One new model includes service learning. New service learning guidelines will be on the AGES website, under Forms. Gen Ed will invite everyone to a week 10 conversation about LSFY.

Kramer and Varallo from Nominations and Rules asked if N&R should continue to conduct elections for division chairs. They provided that background information that years ago there had been accusations made in some departments of manipulation of elections. It was informally decided that N&R should therefore conduct elections; this isn't in writing. N&R would like clarification on whether they should continue to conduct these elections. If so, it should be put in writing, perhaps with the committee descriptions or in the faculty handbook. The main advantage would occur only if there is some nefarious influence; the other advantage is that elections would be consistent. N&R is happy to do whatever senate wants.

Jensen argued that most divisions can handle these elections on their own. If a member thinks an election is unfair, then N&R can be called in to mediate.

Kramer explained that N&R originally took over elections in order to cover up the problem so that people didn't know what division had made accusations.

Kivisto asked whether having N&R conduct elections makes more trouble.

Kramer explained that the intention was to cover up the problem so it was applied to all divisions, not just the one with the problem.

Johnson explained that the handbook is lacking in procedural instructions and asked what the handbook should state about the role of N&R in division elections.

Rayapati suggested that N&R make a proposal for Senate to consider.

Hyser asked how many divisions actually use N&R for division chair elections.

Johnson replied that fine arts, social sciences, philosophy and religion have, but there is variation in the remaining three divisions.

A friendly request was made that N&R make a proposal to Senate.

Croll discussed that the Diversity Initiative Committee is trying to really think about diversity and do something about it. There is a lot of talk about recruiting a more diverse student body. Generally faculty are on board and want to help but we haven't given faculty many tips on how to help. If we have more

diverse classrooms, lots of faculty don't have experience with that classroom. The committee will host sessions in the spring with practical rather than theoretical strategies. Croll also encouraged faculty to consider incorporating into their classes a white privilege summit which will be held on campus March 25. The summit will treat race, ethnicity and white privilege and will feature Tim Wise as the convocation speaker. There will be breakout sessions in the afternoon for faculty and students and evening conversations with Augustana and other colleges. He hopes that this summit will be beginning of a series of events.

Bertsche reported that the task force on curricular change plans to hold faculty for a in early to mid spring.

Crowe said he had planned to call for fora on the semester question in response to requests from faculty but now understands that one of the choices likely to come up will discuss semesters.

Simonsen urged, on behalf of untenured faculty, that the task force consider the semester question. If the college is talking about curriculum, we need to talk about semesters, too. We don't want to do too many overhauls one after the next.

Crowe pointed out that he has heard from three groups: senior faculty, untenured faculty, and some offices on campus.

Bertsche pointed out that the survey is an opportunity for departments to consider additional opportunities for the new curriculum. What barriers would be reduced by going to a semester system?

Hyser pointed out the major reason for credit inflation is that we kept 3-course sequences when we shifted to trimester. That inflates number of credits; most places would have two 3-credit classes instead of three 3-credit classes.

Abernathy reported that Faculty Welfare has been addressing faculty handbook issues for the past years. With the number of pre-tenure reviews, they can't focus on this right now but anticipate the proposal of a task force on issues in the handbook to start work this spring.

Good: Hengst is heading that task force.

Adjournment by popular acclaim at 12:18.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Seidlitz