College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2010, 4pm
104 Gore Hall


Absent:  P. Amer, J. Chen, R. Hanley, B. Moxley, A. Randolph, A. Selimov, I. Sun, S. Tomioka, A. Towns,

Excused:  C. Bonham, W. Boyer, S. Burton, F. Cakoni, S. Neal, J. Weber

Meeting called to order at 4:05pm

Minutes

I. Consent Agenda
   a.  Approval of the agenda for 5/17/10 meeting
   b.  Approval of the minutes from 4/26/10 meeting
   c.  Ed Affairs – AA proposal<--[endif]-->

Consent agenda passed as presented.

II. President’s remarks (John A. Pelesko)

Pelesko thanked the Steering Committee for their service during 2009-2010: President-elect Ted Davis; COCAN Chair Aaron Fichtelberg; Educational Affairs Chair Tony Seraphin, P&T Chairs Marian Palley and Lynette Overby, Advisement and Retention Chair Eric Rise, Grade Grievance Chair Ken Haas, Faculty Awards Chair Marianne Gythfeldt, and Secretary Persephone Braham. He also thanked the administrators who do so much to facilitate the work of the Senate: Administrative Coordinator Mary Cleveland, Senior Assistant Dean Cyndi Shenkle; Interim Associate Deans Doren, Pika and Interim Deputy Dean Ardis; and Dean George Watson.

III. Special Presentation (Provost Tom Apple)

Provost Apple remarked on the recent appointments in the Dean’s Office; he is looking for great things from the College, which he called “the most important” college in the University. He commended the Arts & Sciences faculty on this year’s hiring; this year all of our top choices accepted job offers from UD. The incoming class will be slightly lower than projected but with the best credentials to date. Apple thanked the senate leadership for their service and invited questions.

Q: Can you please comment on the college reorganizations currently underway?
A: Computer Sciences’ move to engineering seems appropriate for their faculty and accreditation process. A&S will be very happy with Fashion & Apparel Studies: the most inherently global department in the College and a very strong, popular major. With regard to the new College of Education & Human Development, there is a natural synergy in the two departments comprising the college. They will have a great impact on our activity as one of two Race to the Top institutions and in other national initiatives.

Provost Apple stated his strong belief that Urban Affairs & Public Policy belongs in A&S as a social science, stating that in order to become a great university we need to strengthen our social sciences and especially the applied social sciences. Apple foresees their eventually joining A&S and hopes our faculty will support that move.

Q: What is the forecast regarding new faculty hires beyond 2010?

A: That will be a Dean’s Office decision. RBB will determine the size of the budget allotted to each College. A&S should do very well under RBB; as the College teaches 65.8% of the classes and has 42.8% of the majors in the University. The College of A&S was perennially underfunded under the previous budget model. In short, we should start seeing the ability to hire more but this will be at the Dean’s discretion to a large extent. Five years from now A&S should be in a much better position with regard to faculty numbers.

IV. Dean’s remarks (George Watson)

Dean Watson presented incoming faculty for fall 2010. A major focus of the searches this past year was on faculty who addressed more than one strategic priority for the College. Some searches are still underway, particularly in the sciences. Out of 50-some promotions in the University, 31 were in the College of A&S. Watson thanked the P&T Committee and the Associate Deans for their work on this year’s promotions.

With regard to evaluation and promotion of non-tenure track faculty (a question raised at the April meeting), Watson reported that we now have 8 at the rank of Associate Professor or above on the non-tenure track.

Departmental budget allocations were released last Friday and the Dean’s Office is reviewing recruiting needs and plans for next year.

V. Business Arising From Standing Committees

a. Grade Grievances. Ken Haas presented the proposed Grade Grievances policy changes. In particular the committee identified a need to specify what the burden of proof of bias is, and on whom it should rest. They recommend that faculty adopt a policy requiring a “clear and convincing” standard of evidence; to be presented by the complaining student; with obligatory written notice to the professor. The appeal period should be shortened from 30 to 15 business days.

Resolution passed 17-0-0.

b. COCAN election results: Tony Seraphin has been elected President-elect; Lou Rossi has been elected COCAN Chair.
c. Advising & Retention (Eric Rise)
The Committee consulted advising faculty, administrators, and students on advisement and its possible relationship with retention. A full report will be distributed shortly. Rise outlined the key information resulting from the study.
The Committee articulated three guiding principles for advisement:

1) Advisement encompasses a broad range of activities associated with fulfilling our academic mission

2) Advisement is developmental

3) Advisement requires the human touch

Frequently cited problems with advising:

- Students cite lack of access to advisers (hours, contact information)
- Faculty cite lack of preparedness or engagement by students
- Both groups cited difficulty obtaining accurate course and program information; it is scattered, confusing, hard to find. Advisers may give inaccurate information.
- Both groups asserted that UDSIS has many shortcomings; reports are not up to date and very hard to read
- Transfer students offer particular challenges

Recommendations:

- Increase the visibility of Undergraduate Academic Services and advisement resources on web (ideally, an Advisement tab on the UD home page)
- Improve quality/amount of resources on web – eg. checksheets for every major
- Emphasize faculty responsibility and reward good advisement (Dean’s Office and Department chairs)
- Emphasize student responsibilities, appeal to their self-interest
- Improvements to UDSIS
- Incorporate registrations and advisement into FYE

For further consideration by next year’s committee:

- Feasibility of mandatory advisement (for selected groups?)
- Feasibility of online advisement tutorial
- Integration of advisement with other units – Career Services, UAS, Academic Enrichment Center, etc.
- Transfer students – review and address special issues

How to measure improvements to advising and possible connections to retention:
Some measures may include senior checkouts; Ed Affairs petitions; student surveys; student evaluations; graduation rates

d. Proposal to move the English Language Institute to Arts & Sciences
Remarks by Scott Stevens: the ELI faculty voted unanimously to approach Arts & Sciences as a new administrative home. ELI is excited to be part of the global initiatives underway in A&S and believes there are many opportunities for collaboration. It would be like coming home.

Dean Watson strongly endorsed the move. Provost Apple added his endorsement. Regarding possible objections by the College of Education and Public Policy, the Provost assured A&S faculty that they were on board.

Amendment offered: change Arts & Science to Arts & Sciences in the wording of the resolution.

Motion passed as amended, 17-0-0.

VII. Announcements

• State of the College Wednesday May 19, 4pm in the Center for the Arts
• Arts & Sciences Alumni Awards

Meeting adjourned 5:25pm