College of Arts & Sciences October 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Present: Wayne Batchis, Bernhardt, Watson, Ardis, Doren, Draper, Young, Shenkle, Overby, Payne, Carlsen, Evenson, Allen, Haslett, Selimov, Kaminski, Montano, Noble-Harvey, Bellion, Szabo, Skeen, Cherrin, Criston, Perez, Mycoff, Okpotor, Watson, Shenkle, Ardis, Doren, Cleveland, Lennon

Excused: Gutman, McKenna, Heinz, Cotsell, Boyer

Absent: Broadnax, Budani, Heinz, Saxon, Ridge

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Consent Agenda
   a. Adoption of agenda for the October 17, 2011 meeting – approved unanimously as presented.
   b. Approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting – approved unanimously as written.
   c. Approval of Ed Affairs items – A motion was made, seconded, and approved to remove this item from the consent agenda, since the Ed Affairs committee did not submit any items for consideration.

2. President’s Remarks (Tony Seraphin)
   President Seraphin reminded committee chairs that they are required to attend Steering Committee meetings and requested that they attend as often as possible.

3. Special Information Session: Associate in Arts Director (Jack Bartley)
   President Seraphin introduced Dr. Jack Bartley, Faculty-Director of the University of Delaware Associate in Arts Program. Dr. Bartley is the first in a series of speakers invited to inform the senate about issues related to recruitment, retention, and success of diverse students. (click here for presentation)

   Dr. Bartley gave an overview of the 3 state-wide locations for the 60-credit degree program (Wilmington, Dover, and Georgetown campuses), and of the program’s faculty and students. He discussed the fact that all students who complete the AA degree with a minimum 2.0 gpa are guaranteed the opportunity to study towards a bachelor’s degree in a set of “open majors” at the Newark campus. Opportunities to pursue other bachelor’s degree majors present more limited or restricted choices because of lack of ability to align the initial years of the curriculum in the AA and BA/BS degree programs, or due to more selective application processes. Additionally, due to the small class sizes, close mentoring from faculty and advisors, and special attention to writing assignments they have experienced as the norm in the AA Program, students often face difficulties with transitioning to the main campus, especially in their first year. The AA Program is currently working on ways to help make the transition more seamless in the face of financial limitations created in part by the relatively low tuition paid by AA program students. Dr. Bartley fielded numerous questions from senators about various facets of the program. Because the question session had to be cut off prematurely due to time limitations, Dr.
Seraphin suggested (given the high level of interest in the AA Program) that Dr. Bartley be invited to return at a later date.

4. Dean's Remarks (George Watson)

Dean Watson highlighted some of the points raised in Dr. Bartley’s presentation. He noted that the AA Program joined the College of Arts and Sciences fairly recently (2 years ago), having previously been run out of the Provost’s Office. He acknowledged that the low tuition (approximately 1/3 of that paid by students enrolled at the main campus) is a big challenge, but that the program is an important aspect of UD’s commitment to Delawareans, and is intended to offer a seamless transition to UD for students on a liberal arts track. He pointed out that another major challenge of running the program is operating a “UD-branded” program that is housed in space leased from another institution (Delaware Technical & Community College).

Dean Watson also alerted Senators to the upcoming Nobel Prize Symposium (12-2:10 on Friday, October 21 and Friday, October 28 in Gore Recital Hall), and encouraged departments to continue submitting their ideas for the specific roles that they think they can play in achieving the College’s strategic goals.

5. Business Arising from Standing Committees

No committee reports were presented.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7. New Business

a. Ad Hoc Rules Committee

President Seraphin reminded the Senate that at the September 19, 2011 meeting, a motion was made from the floor to amend the Senate bylaws. The motion was made by a faculty member who is not an elected senator, but who was representing his department’s elected senator. The motion was tabled and sent to the Steering Committee for discussion of the two issues it raised – the process for making motions for by-laws revision, and who can make them. The Steering Committee reviewed the existing by-laws for information that would clarify these issues.

As summarized by President Seraphin, while several sections and subsections of the by-laws provided some relevant information, they did not do so in a way that made it clear how to resolve the issues. He presented the following recommendation (stemming from his discussion with the Steering Committee): that an Ad Hoc Rules Committee be appointed to clarify and streamline the process of making amendments to the by-laws. The Senate consented to the formation of the committee.

8. Announcements

No announcements were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.