Regular Meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate
Monday November 21, 2011, 4:00 P.M.
104 Gore Hall
Minutes

Present:  Kaminski, Bellion, Payne, Noble-Harvey, Lennon, Penix-Tadsen, Heinz, Coulter, Broadnax,
Evenson, Perez, Cherrin, Boyer, Gutman, Batchis, Bernhardt, McKenna, Cubillos, Schwartz, Cleveland,
Watson, Ardis, Doren

Absent:   Young, Szabo

Excused:  Budani, Cassman, Ridge, Cotsell, Criston, Montano, Draper, Mycoff, Haslett, Skeen

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Consent Agenda
   a. Adoption of agenda for the November 21, 2011 meeting – approved unanimously as presented.
   b. Approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2011 meeting – approved unanimously as written.

2. President’s Remarks (Tony Seraphin)
   President Seraphin provided the names of individuals who served on the Ad Hoc Rules Committee
   (Jim Magee (Committee Chair) – Pol. Sci, David Bellamy – Math, John Morgan – Physics, James
   Morrison – Pub. Pol, Jen Nauen – Biology, and Leslie Reidel - Theatre), and announced that the
   Apportionment Committee needs additional members. He thanked all CAS Faculty Senate
   committee members for their willingness to serve, and reminded committee chairs that one of their
   responsibilities (as stated in the bylaws) is to attend the Steering Committee meetings.

3. Special Information Session:  University of Delaware’s Network of Undergraduate Collaborative
   Learning Experiences for Underrepresented Scholars (NUCLEUS) program & Arts and Humanities
   Summer Institute (AHSI)

   Associate Dean Ardis introduced the two speakers for this special information session: Assistant
   Dean Jacqueline Aldridge (for access and academic development programs), and Director Rosalind
   Johnson (NUCLEUS, and formerly AHSI). Aldridge provided a brief history of the NUCLEUS program
   since its founding in 1992 (made possible through a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical
   Institute, HHMI). The goals of the program are to help students enter the professional pipeline.
   Towards this goal, the program provides services such as supplemental advisement, career
   counseling, theme-based seminars, tutoring, and undergraduate research opportunities. While open
   to all students, its focus is on students from underserved groups (for example, first generation
   college students, students from historically underrepresented groups, students from economically
   disadvantaged backgrounds, etc.). While the program was at first limited to students pursuing
   majors in life sciences-related fields, a recent shift in the major source of financial support (from
   HHMI to CAS and other sources) has allowed the program to include all CAS majors as well as majors
   in health-related fields. As of November, 2011, the program is serving 195 students, a doubling of
   the number served in spring, 2010. Seventy-three percent of the current NUCLEUS students are CAS
   majors, 60% are Delaware residents, and 21% are first generation college students. The program
   goal is to provide services to 265 students by the end of the spring semester, 2012.
Aldridge responded to a number of questions from the floor, including inquiries about future program needs with respect to faculty involvement (there is a need for faculty mentors, and for departmental representatives for the program), and about the fate of NUCLEUS students who cannot maintain the program’s g.p.a. requirement. Aldridge outlined the steps that are taken to help students remain in the program, including use of probationary periods.

4. Dean's Remarks (George Watson)
Dean Watson remarked that he had received the requested feedback from the various college units about how they envisioned their role in achieving the goals of the CAS strategic plan. He commented that he saw Assistant Dean Aldridge and Director Johnson's work as being directly supportive of the diversity goals in the strategic plan. Other initiatives in support of those goals include the formation of the CAS Center for Study of Diversity (James Jones, Director), an area in which there will be a cluster hire in the future, the Center for Science, Ethics and Public Policy (Thomas Powers, Director), and the contribution of CAS to the University-wide Global Research Consortium, is directed by a new CAS associate dean (Nancy Guerra).

5. Business Arising from Standing Committees
a. Educational Affairs
A question arose about whether the departments proposing minors or revisions to minors offer advisement to the students seeking the minors. Senior Assistant Dean Shenkel pointed out that each unit that offers minors does provide advisement, and Dean Watson affirmed that there is someone assigned to provide advisement for interdisciplinary minors in each case. An additional question was raised about the two proposals to revise the BA degrees in Public Policy to include a 4+1 provision; the question was about whether there would be a difference in the application requirements and rigor of the course experiences between masters programs that recruit students from outside the University, and these proposed 4+1 programs. Dan Rich, representing Public Policy, replied by noting that the students in the 4+1 programs must be formally admitted by the masters program faculty, using the same application process as outside candidates, and that the undergraduates admitted to 600 level courses typically can do as well at a 600-level standard as graduate students. There were no additional questions, and all of the proposed revisions were advanced.

b. COCAN
i. Results of At-Large Senator and University COCAN elections
Committee chair Alan Carlsen introduced and welcomed the two newly elected at-large senators, Jennifer Swartz and Jorge Cubillos. He announced that Senator Swartz was also elected to serve as the COCAN representative to the University Faculty Senate.

c. Diversity
Committee chair Lynette Overby reported the names of current committee members (Rebecca Davis, Robyn Philips-Pendleton, Jean Pfaelzer), and that the committee had conducted initial conversations with the head of the new Center for the Study of Diversity. Senators inquired about how the committee defines the word “diversity,” and thus the business of the committee. Overby responded that these issues will be discussed further in the committee, for future report. Subsequent questions pertained to issues of diversity as they relate to the conduct of faculty searches. Overby stated that the committee could provide information for departments about strategies for how to widen searches and create conditions that would give the impression to diverse candidates that they would be welcome and supported if they were to accept a position at UD.

d. Steering Committee
i. Report from Ad Hoc Graduate Committee (Alex Selimov)
The committee recommends creation of a 1-year ad hoc committee, rather than a standing committee as a forum to discuss how to enhance graduation education in CAS in relation to the strategic plan, and in ways that would not duplicate the activities of the CAS graduate program directors. The committee membership could include non-senators and some administrators. President Seraphin requested backing from the Senate to allow the ad hoc committee to proceed, and this consent was given.

ii. CAS Web Site (Allan Carlsen -- COCAN)
   No committee report was presented.

iii. Ad Hoc WAC committee (Brian Ackerman)
   No committee report was presented.

iv. Progress on Ad Hoc Rules committee
   President Seraphin updated the Senate on behalf of the committee. The committee issued a report and recommendations; the Steering Committee has not yet had an opportunity to review and discuss the report, but will do so during its December meeting. Seraphin thanked the committee members for their work.

v. Apportionment committee
   No committee report was presented.

6. Unfinished Business
   There was no unfinished business.

7. New Business
   There was no new business.

8. Announcements
   John Morgan brought to the senators' attention the fact that a recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Rules for the request to increase the number of University Faculty Senate seats is on the agenda for the December 5th meeting, and asked for them to alert their departments and faculty to the importance of this pending resolution to CAS. This led to a more general discussion of the perceived lack of representation of CAS on University Faculty Senate committees and with respect to officer positions, and the need for CAS to have a stronger voice, particularly prior to approval of the COCAN slate. A suggestion was made to consider holding a CAS caucus prior to University Faculty Senate meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.