

CAS Faculty Meeting

Minutes

April 14, 1999

Call to order, 3:30 PM.

President's Report

Thanks for the faculty support at the admitted students event. The budget is balanced this year, for the 12th in a row. We anticipate a balance again next year. The endowment has performed well, in the top 1% of growth for colleges and universities.

Two former trustees have passed away. General Chester E. McCarty left \$7 million to the College. A memorial service will be held Friday at 4 p.m. Carl M. Halvorson was the longest serving member of the Board of Trustees.

The College failed to get either the Luce or Asian studies chairs. Curtis Johnson, the Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr. Professor of Government, will give his inaugural lecture Thursday at 6 p.m.

Dr. Mooney requested stories about seniors for his commencement remarks.

On the general education debate: if there is a "tyranny of the majority" it shouldn't be happening. No one should tow a party line. Civility is important. The President would never consider retribution against a faculty member for raising criticisms of college actions.

Dean's Report

Introduction of new Director of Aubrey Watzek Library, James Kopp.

Andy Holter has received a Truman scholarship.

Dan Meliza has received a 4-year NSF graduate study grant.

Erin Bailey has received a Fulbright Scholarship.

Committee Reports

AAAS

Barb Balko: The committee is reviewing the newest procedures for merit awards, scholarship criteria, and application procedures. Dell Smith and Kristi Williams will be circulating the results of freshman advising surveys.

Curriculum Committee

Bill Randall: The committee has completed its review of the International Affairs Department. At the request of the IA department, the committee has authorized continuation of the IA advisory committee, to coordinate the relationship between IA and other departments.

Moves the New Principles for the Calendar (attached)

Discussion included 1) a proposal for a senior week; 2) the possibility of a week long fall break; 3) the fact that spring break comes "too late"; 4) A M-T fall break to avoid losing another Th-F class (but we are missing Labor Day already); 5) And why start so early, as early as August 25th?

All of these issues had been discussed in the curriculum committee. The response to 5) was to avoid classes bumping up against Christmas, to preserve the Monday starting date to accommodate labs, and to process grades early enough to determine academic standing, as well as to get students grades at home over the holidays.

Education Technology

Harry Schleef: Dan Cicchetti will be the new director of Instructional Media Services.

Point of order: Have graduating seniors been reviewed? Should we be voting on it? This needs to be on next meeting's agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Item V from the Curriculum Committee report on General Education was under consideration. No comments were registered for V, VIA, B, or C.

With respect to VID, Bill Rottschaefter moved that in item D3, the language "a region of the world other than the United States" be replaced with "a culture other than their own". The point of the amendment was to expand the possibilities for other courses, including a focus on commonalities and differences, historical, and literary types of courses. However, the intent was not to include variants of cultures within the US.

In response to a query as to whether international students would have different requirements vis a vis "a culture other than our own." Bill Rottschaefter changed his motion to read: "Cultures other than the one in which they are being educated."

The amendment was deemed unfriendly via a poll of curriculum committee members.

Three people spoke against the amendment, arguing that the current language was not restrictive, and that "region" provided more concrete guidance than "culture."

The motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion turned to VII, the Foreign Language Requirement.

Bob Owens noted that the current catalog copy deviates from what faculty passed in 1993. He moved that the old language be substituted for the rationale.

Bill Randall accepted the amendment as friendly.

In discussion it was noted that the current catalog copy is stronger than what the faculty passed in 1993. The goals set by current catalog copy cannot be met by 201. By no legitimate process, the catalog copy seems to have been changed.

No comments were offered on sections VII, B and C.

For VII D Nicole Aas-Rouxparis moved that the Foreign Language requirement be increased to the 202 level.

David Savage stated that this would require 6-10 additional sections.

Jack Hart reported on curriculum committee discussions of this issue. A survey of 40 Liberal Arts colleges revealed that 18 had no language requirement., 9-10 required 1 year , 6 required 3 semesters, and 4, 2 years.

The committee discussed 1 year, 3 semester, and 2 year requirements, finding:

1 year reduces dependency on adjuncts, 2 years increases that.

In terms of pedagogical choice: In the 1st year students engage in elementary work. In the 2nd year they approach linguistic sophistication. The committee concluded that sampling linguistic sophistication is enough for informed choice on part of students.

An additional course raises the portion of general education curriculum above the 1/3 level.

Nicole Aas-Rouxparis noted that the Foreign Languages Department as well as the "absent Dean" are in support of the motion. She agreed that the 2nd year is about linguistic solidification. But students don't have time to be informed by the end of the third semester; many are coming right out of high school. Students need 202 to really make the jump to what languages can do for them. Also, 202's are not currently filled, except for Spanish. High Schools are preparing students better. So there should not be too much of a resource drain. She noted also that overseas programs could be modified to achieve the 202 requirement.

Five people spoke against the motion, stressing resource issues, that general education should not be geared towards mastering a language, and the need to maintain balance in the general education curriculum.

Two people spoke in favor, maintaining that the resource demands were probably smaller than the curriculum committee estimated, and that the Foreign Language department was best able to determine how to meet the pedagogical goal set by the curriculum committee.

The question was called and seconded. It passed by a voice vote. The motion failed by a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Eban Goodstein