

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2002

Meeting convened, 3:25 PM, Miller 105

President's Report: No report; President is away.

Remarks by Provost Jane Atkinson

The Law School Library dedication on Sunday, 10 February, will include a visit and lecture by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. This visit has caught the attention of many in the community. The Northwest Justice Coalition has asked to stage a rally on campus in connection with the event, and their representatives have met with President Mooney, Provost Atkinson, and David Ellis of the Law School. The idea of an educational rally seemed appropriate under certain conditions. Rally organizers will provide peacekeepers to work with our own campus safety staff. A planning group has met to develop a memo of understanding and contractual agreements. We are also working with federal marshals and the Portland police. Parking is an issue; campus events policy precludes events for which we can't provide sufficient parking. However, this morning the Northwest Justice Coalition informed us that they have decided to stage an unpermitted event (although they do have a parade permit) on Palatine Hill Road instead of on campus. Justice Scalia's current schedule includes a private lunch on campus, a talk in Pamplin Center from 3-4 PM, and a Law School reception following the talk by invitation only.

Dean's Report (adapted from electronic message distributed prior to the meeting)

1) CAP update. The Commission is now finalizing its recommendations. That work should be completed by the end of next week. At that point the recommendations will be circulated to the faculty with sufficient lead-time to permit you to read and consider them prior to the next President's Forum, now scheduled for February 20th. Two such forums will be dedicated to the CAP recommendations. In light of faculty comments, CAP will then reconvene to finalize its Report to the President.

2) Construction update. In the coming months, construction will be proceeding on Albany Hall. The front of Olin Building is also receiving some work. Some of this work is regrettably noisy, and all of it will be disruptive. No sooner will Albany be completed than work will begin immediately on Howard. In short, the next three years will be difficult for all of us. Jane Atkinson is working with the facilities staff to attempt to minimize noise and other disruptions and also to provide adequate forewarning of new initiatives as they are undertaken. Even with the best efforts, however, disruptions are inevitable and patience is indispensable. The results that we anticipate from these projects will, I hope, justify these costs.

3) Classroom update. In consequence of the construction, 12 existing classrooms will be removed from service when Albany is complete, viz., Thaxter, Throckmorton, and Edmonds (2 of which are computer labs). Dell Smith has been heading up the effort to identify and bring on line a sufficient number of replacement classrooms to enable our full curriculum to be offered within our existing schedule of classes and in acceptable spaces. To this point new potential classrooms have been identified in several dorms, the Chapel meeting room (which will require new lighting and equipment), PSC 116, PSC 10 (a large lecture hall on the west side of PSC), conference rooms in BioPsych, Evans, and BoDine upstairs, Evans Auditorium, and the Council Chamber. Other ideas that have been suggested are Library Conference Room, Gatehouse downstairs, Tamarack Basement, Thayer Rooms (if the 3 symposia were willing to schedule their sessions on weekends), and the south end of the hallway in Miller, 3rd and 4th floors.

The new location of the computer labs poses some difficulties in terms of finding the right size and kind of space for them, and that is still being worked on.

Many of these spaces are not as good as those they are replacing, again an inevitable consequence of this new building phase. But most of them have been used as teaching spaces in the past, some still are, and all are serviceable. The point is again that we will have to make do with what we have for the 16 months of Howard Hall construction. If any of you have additional suggestions, or wish to comment on the above, please contact either Dell Smith, Jane Atkinson, or Dean Johnson.

4) NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement). Lewis & Clark has been participating, along with 467 other four-year colleges and universities (85 of which are liberal arts colleges) in a survey designed to test the level of "engagement" our students have with our college. The survey measures such benchmarks as "Level of Academic Challenge," "Student Interactions with Faculty," "Enriching Educational Experience," "Supportive Campus Environment," and "Active and Collaborative Learning." (In part it is an effort to get a better reading of the quality of the educational experience than is achieved in the US News & World Report rankings.)

Dean Johnson and Michael Ford provided a brief report on the findings of this survey in its first year of being conducted, both in terms of how well L&C ranks on several indicators and also how we compare with other colleges of our type. Michael Ford will be happy to provide a one-hour powerpoint presentation on the results at the request of academic departments.

5) The Curriculum Committee has recommended to the Academic Council that course caps for 400 level courses be reduced from the present norm of 20 to a new norm of 19. The Council is studying the resource implications of this, and a decision will be forthcoming.

6) Committee on Identity and Marketing. Building on the discussions at last year's President's Forums, the president has formed a new committee, chaired by the President, to work on identity and marketing issues to help improve our future admissions, public relations, and identity efforts. The committee consists of faculty, the Dean, the Provost, the Dean of Admissions, Emily Clark, and representatives from Public Affairs & Communications and Development, as well as Jay Beaman and possibly others. The group will be consulting widely with faculty and will also be working with

the faculty task force on web-site issues. The aim is to achieve accuracy and consistency in the identity of the College as projected in our publications and ways in which we are seen by external audiences.

7) Other Reports:

a) Gary Reiness, Science building update

A working group is putting together a plan for an expanded science facility, involving the rehabilitation of Olin and some additional construction. The group is gathering data on other schools' science facilities. Questions and comments are welcome.

A brief discussion ensued regarding how budget priorities are determined, how projects are prioritized, and faculty relationships to the budget process. Dean Johnson remarked that budget information is made available to department chairs, who are encouraged to share this information with faculty.

b) Tom Schoeneman, Commission on Teaching

The Commission is now drafting and redrafting various sections of its report, intending to provide a product to faculty by spring break. The Commission intends to complete its work by the end of the semester. Topics include defining good teaching, documenting and evaluating good teaching, honoring good teaching, advising, and the interface between teaching and scholarship.

c) Peter Christenson, Bathhouse Committee update

Peter Christenson, Bob Goldman, and Stuart Kaplan are looking for ways to foster social interaction among faculty and between faculty and students. Two models are under consideration: a faculty club with an established site (possibly the bathhouse by the outdoor pool), and a faculty club with no designated site. Discussions continue.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee, Bill Randall

The Committee is still looking at the 1/3-1/3-1/3 issue and may have some ideas to share later in the semester. Proposed curriculum changes are now under review.

AAAS Committee: No report.

Educational Technology Committee: No report.

Library Committee: No report.

Committee on Promotion and Tenure: No report.

Old Business

Discussions regarding the next faculty retreat were deferred until after the Commission on Academic Priorities has issued its report.

New Business: None.

Meeting Adjourned, 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Kinsella, CAS Faculty Secretary