

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2001

1. Minutes of December 6, 2000, approved as written.

2. President's Report

We have passed the first round of the Meyer Memorial Trust evaluation of our request for \$2 million toward the new Social Sciences building. Today, President Mooney met with three trustees of the Murdock Foundation. The Albany renovation and Social Science building projects are going very well; we should have more to report next month.

After his presentation for the "Last Lecture" series, President Mooney invited 25 students to dinner at his home. He has now done so two more times, for a total of 75 students in three visits. He is enjoying these events and learning a lot from them.

Faculty Forum conversations have been moving towards the topics of our students, and what kinds of students we wish to serve. Students are aware we're not a "typical" college. Our students are so busy with multiple "passions" that there's often not as much commonality as might be desired. Common spaces and events, such as Casino Night, help to foster such community.

Many students are concerned about class sizes, particularly in certain departments. One student reported having more than 40 students in all classes taken, except Inventing America.

President Mooney thanked the faculty for its rich participation in Forums and Commissions. Personally, he especially enjoys meeting prospective new faculty in connection with the search process.

3. Dean's Report

1. Budget and Salaries. The Academic Council is now in the process of distributing to department chairs a request for 2001/02 operating budgets. Increases may be requested, and suggestions for redistributing existing budget allotments are welcome. At present all available budget surpluses in the CAS are being reserved for salary increases. Discussions about whether to redistribute any of this surplus to other expenses will be held between divisional deans and chairs. At this point raising salaries remains top priority.
2. Search updates: several searches for new faculty positions are concluded or nearly so:

- East Asian Art History. An offer has been made and accepted by Lisa Claypool.
 - East Asia, Luce Social Science position. The search committee has made a recommendation to the dean, which I have accepted. An offer is to be made shortly.
 - Foreign Languages, French: candidate interviews have concluded. Pamplin Chair, Economics: An offer has been made and accepted.
 - Social Psychology search: an offer has been made and accepted.
 - Biology, systematist search: an offer has been made. The remaining searches are still in progress.
 - Religious Studies, Islamicist, 3 year appointment. Offer made and accepted.
3. Students admitted into courses without proper prerequisites. The registrar and Curriculum Committee are designing new guidelines to attempt to minimize this problem.
 4. Commission on Academic Priorities. Meetings have been ongoing. The commission has been attempting to define criteria according to which our academic priorities may be evaluated over the next 15 years and which may thereby help in future decisions about program development and resource allocation. Information is now being compiled from a set of comparative institutions. Subgroups are being constituted and charged with examining specific elements of our academic programs.
 5. Commission on Teaching. Tom Schoeneman, reporting:

The Commission has been meeting since October 30, has been given a charge by President Mooney, and is examining the issues. The Commission is charged with defining the elements of good teaching at Lewis and Clark, classifying the different demands imposed by the kinds of teaching required by our curriculum, and recommending ways in which to evaluate and enhance such teaching.

Focus areas have been assigned as follows:

Definition and scope of teaching: David Savage, Steve Weeks.

Support and Development: Bob Goldman, Diane Nelson, Tom Schoeneman.

Advising: Jim Grant, Evan Williams.

Interface between scholarship and teaching: Ken Clifton.

Evaluating, documenting, and honoring good teaching: Tom Schoeneman, Evan Williams.

Writing and Speaking Committee Liaison: Micha Grudin.

Definition and scope of teaching, additional issues (relationship between student characteristics and teaching practices; balancing subject specialization and liberal education): unclaimed.

Commission minutes will be posted on the web soon.

6. Discussion and Questions:

Evan Williams: Along with Mark Duntley, looking for names of alumni (one per year) to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Must display scholarly or creative achievement and have graduated more than ten years ago. Now have a list of approximately 20 alumni. Please suggest additional names.

Nick Smith: Philosopher Ted Cohen will be visiting soon, by arrangement with Phi Beta Kappa and the Philosophy Department.

Question on the Commission on Academic Priorities (CAP): What will be the content of the report to the President? President Mooney: He hopes it will be fairly specific and programmatic, identifying areas where we plan to develop strength in the coming years, with a 15-year horizon. We are assembling data on 10-20 colleges we might consider as exemplars.

Jean Ward announced that author Sherman Alexie will speak on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Question on the Commission on Academic Priorities: Can we find a formal mechanism for linking CAP to some other forum, such as the Faculty Forum? This would bring a broader range of faculty into the process.

Discussion ensued regarding what role the CAP should or will have in setting departmental curricular priorities and emphases. President Mooney was asked to reiterate his charge to the Commission. He responded that he believes we need a broad discussion of the College as a whole. We're a college, not a university; we offer a single undergraduate degree; therefore we need curricular discussion that cross departmental lines. CAP's charge is to lead a discussion, rather than to definitively decide.

It was observed that some anxiety exists regarding the legitimacy of the CAP, connected with perceptions that it was created "top-down." President Mooney responded that the Commission consists of established faculty leaders; in this sense its members are self-selected. Dean Johnson commented that broad participation is desired; the process will not work well if it appears imposed in a top-down manner.]

Discussion moved to the role of search committees in setting departmental directions, to concerns that the CAP report appeared oriented toward identifying areas to cut, to the potential for misunderstanding inherent to the process for reporting on CAP meetings, and to the degree to which the CAP is a representative group.

7. Request from admissions office for faculty to assist with contacting admitted students; a phone effort is underway.

8. Retention figures for Spring 2001: 414 of 429 first-year students returned for the Spring 2001 term. This is almost 97%, up from 95% last year.

4. Committee Reports

Committee on Promotion and Tenure: No report.

Curriculum Committee (Steve Hunt, reporting): A substitute motion will be offered under old business. The Committee needs any proposals for new courses very soon. For the Fall 2001 registration process, which will begin soon, the web will be the primary information source. AAUW and Rena Ratte award nominations will be due soon.

Educational Technology: No report.

Admissions, Awards, and Academic Standing (John Krussel, reporting): The Committee is now processing the results of the advising survey.

Library Committee: No report.

5. Old Business

A substitute motion from the Curriculum Committee was offered, and amended to read as follows:|

In order to satisfy graduation requirements for a major or minor, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 for all courses used to satisfy the major/minor requirements on the degree application.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

6. New Business: None.

7. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Kinsella, CAS Faculty Secretary