

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2002

Meeting convened at 3:24 PM.

Minutes of 3 April 2002 meeting approved as amended.

President's Report

President Mooney asked the faculty to provide him with information on graduating seniors, for use at the Commencement program.

Construction update: Over the summer, a roundabout will be built adjacent to the Law School.

A new entrance to the main campus will be built near the south campus entrance. The new residence halls are being finished on schedule and within budget.

Lewis and Clark will be featured in an 8-10 minute segment of the PBS "Newshour with Jim Lehrer," to air in the near future. The topical focus will be the cost of college education. We received similar media exposure five or six years ago on "48 Hours." On this topic, it's worth noting that we spend approximately \$1500 more per student than any student pays us.

Follow-up on the CAS Dean appointment: The advisory committee appointed by president Mooney has provided him with advice and has continued to work with him.

Re: Divisional Deans: President Mooney will soon be appointing a new Dean of Arts and Humanities, and is still taking suggestions. The President has asked Social Sciences Dean Harry Schleef to serve for a third year, extending his original two-year appointment. A one-year replacement will be needed for Mathematics and Natural Sciences Dean Gary Reiness during his sabbatical, after which Dean Reiness will return for his third year in this position.

Commission on Academic Priorities (CAP): The Commission's draft report "has stirred up a fine and interesting discussion." President Mooney hopes to set up a structure within which some of this discussion can continue. The President remarked that we are engaged in a fundamental debate about the role of the liberal arts, and the role of the liberal arts as practiced at Lewis and Clark, and stressed that there is no attack upon the College's international programs. There were no questions or comments.

Dean's Report

Eleven members of the CAS faculty are now retiring: Gary Emblen, Ed Florance, Lee Garrett, Jerry Gatto, Jack Hart, Curt Keedy, Clayton Morgareidge, Roger Paget, Dick Rohrbaugh, David Savage, and Phil Senatra. Their contribution has been huge: together they represent 256 person-years of teaching, approximately 1,300 classes taught, and approximately 40,000 students influenced. Dean Johnson expressed his congratulations and thanks.

Adapted from Dean Johnson's electronic report, distributed prior to the meeting:

1. CAP. The Commission has had two meetings since the last Faculty Forum to reconsider our recommendations in light of faculty response to our initial draft report. We have made headway on several issues that we have been asked to reconsider, some others we have not yet had time fully to discuss again. We are at present reworking language for several of the recommendations in ways that we think are responsive to concerns raised in the faculty. We hope to have new draft language for those parts of the report in the hands of the faculty by tomorrow morning so that they may be discussed at the Forum tomorrow evening. We have also discussed at greater length the issue raised by many of you about the conception or vision of the liberal arts embodied in our Report. We agree that this is a central issue facing the College that deserves a thorough discussion within the faculty, and we hope to take up this question once more with the faculty during the second part of tomorrow's Forum. Finally, the Commission has resolved formally to complete its Report to the president and then dissolve no later than the end of May 2002. We do this while also recognizing that we may not be able to reach closure on a small number of recommendations of our earlier report. These may be submitted to the President as questions or problems that we believe are deserving of fuller attention at some later time rather than as definitive recommendations for charting our academic priorities.
2. Advising Pilot Program. The question of first-year or pre-major advising at Lewis & Clark has been of growing concern, in part in consequence of analyses performed by Jay Beaman of data from several different surveys that have been conducted in the past several years on student and faculty perceptions. What these data pretty clearly suggest is that overall satisfaction with advising at the first year level is lower than satisfaction with other aspects of the academic program here, lower than at comparison institutions, and lower than student expectations. Because most students who leave the College do so after the first or second year, it seems especially important to address the advising component at these early stages. This question has been under discussion in the AAAS, in Tom Schoeneman's Commission on Teaching, in the President's Task Force on Marketing and Identity, in the Dean's Office, in the Inventing America Planning Committee, and elsewhere. These several conversations have begun to coalesce around the idea of a pilot program, to be instituted as early as next fall and involving 2-4 faculty and 40-70 students, in which a new advising structure for first-year students would be tried out. The basic idea is to base the advising relationship for first-year students in one of their first-semester classes (e.g., Inventing America). The faculty teaching those classes would assume advising

responsibility for all first-year students in their classes--up to as many as 20 first-year advisees per faculty participant. Basing the advising relationship in a class would permit more sustained contact and more frequent meetings between adviser and advisee than currently occurs. In addition, we propose giving each new student in the pilot program an upper-division student "mentor" or "contact person," who would be assigned the responsibility of helping first-year students negotiate the non-academic parts of campus life. A permanent College staff person might also be assigned to each first-year student as an additional non-faculty resource.

The idea is still in the process of development. Those working on the idea are aware of some potential difficulties in the plan and are even now working on resolving them. The model I have described here is not our invention, however. It has been employed with good profit at other colleges. We shall build in assessment measures of the plan from the beginning to permit us to judge whether it has similarly beneficial effects here.

3. Nominations to the Pamplin Society are due by Friday, May 17. Nominations may be sent to angie@lclark.edu or mailed to her at MSC 83. Angie is willing to take names now provided that each one who merely submits a name is reachable this summer by email and is willing to send in a formal letter of nomination as soon as I verify the GPAs of the nominees. Waiting until the GPA's are verified may spare you the trouble of writing for students who then do not qualify.
4. Results of faculty elections:

Committee on the Curriculum

Arts & Humanities Rep. - Alan Cole

Mathematical & Natural Sciences Rep. - VACANT

At-Large Social Sciences Rep. - Bruce Podobnik

At-Large Interdisciplinary Rep. - Elliott Young

Committee on Promotion & Tenure

Arts & Humanities Rep. - Stephanie Arnold

Mathematical & Natural Sciences Rep. - John Krussel

Committee on Admissions, Awards, and Academic Standing

Mathematical & Natural Sciences Rep. - VACANT

At-Large Member - VACANT

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Eban Goodstein

Secretary to the Faculty - VACANT

End of electronic report. Additional items discussed at meeting:

The Diversity Task Force has done a tremendous job and has put in a lot of work. The Dean's office supports the report and will push forward with this issue.

Faculty retreat: After discussion by the Academic Council, the agenda and

program are now in the President's hands. President Mooney would like to ponder the three recent reports (CAP, Commission on Teaching, and Diversity Task Force) and put them together in a package for the retreat.

Michael Sexton, Dean of Admissions, reported that we have 100 more student deposits compared to this time last year.

Questions and Discussion:

Q: Has the faculty retreat agenda been officially removed from status as a faculty decision?

Dean Johnson: Historically, it's been the decision of the Academic Council. The innovation Dean Johnson introduced was to solicit suggestions from faculty. There were four or five suggestions this year. One of these came from the president, who successfully argued for it with the Academic Council.

Other faculty comments:

This year discussions of the retreat agenda were repeatedly deferred, and there appears to have been no faculty consensus up to the present.

While the three reports address important issues, there seems to be a larger issue of policy.

A faculty member expressed the wish that we could do a better job of forging consensus.

President Mooney replied that the three reports are laden with resource issues which seem important for discussion.

Tom Schoeneman reported that the report of the Commission on Teaching is now at the President's office and should be distributed by the end of the week. The report is 62 pages long, with appendixes constituting approximately half of that length.

on the agenda for the first CAS faculty meeting of the 2002-2003 year.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (Bill Randall)

- The Committee is looking at conflicts of academic calendar principles which will arise in future years if no adjustments are made. The first of these will occur in the Fall 2004 semester, so we need to make some determinations by that time. Additional problems will occur after 2009. The Committee expects to report on this situation early in the 2002-2003 academic year.

- During the next two academic years, Commencement will be on the second Sunday in May, which is Mothers' Day.
- The Committee has approved the revamped Theatre major, which now has two tracks: literature-based and performance-based.
- The Committee has approved the revised Environmental Studies curriculum. The new curriculum expands the number of required courses, but some of these are general education requirements.

Educational Technology (Erik Nilsen)

- The Faculty Technology Showcase will take place this coming Friday, from noon-3 p.m., in Templeton. The Faculty Technology Institute will take place May 20-24.

Committee on Promotion and Tenure (Bob Goldman)

The following decisions have been concluded:

Annie Dawid, promoted to Professor

Robert Kugler, appointed at rank of Professor with tenure

David Savage, promoted to Professor

Rishona Zimring, promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

Committee on Admissions, Awards, and Academic Standing (John Krussel)

The Committee has approved new catalog language regarding courses taken by students prior to Lewis & Clark, stating that these courses do not automatically count toward the degree but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

William Kinsella, CAS Faculty Secretary