

## **COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**200 Bricker Hall**

**March 4, 2009**

**3:00 – 5:00 PM**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Faculty:**

✓ Dr. Lawrence A. Baum (Political Science)  
Dr. Neelima M. Bendapudi (Marketing and  
Logistics)  
✓ Dr. James W. Cogdell (Mathematics)  
✓ Dr. Kathryn A. Corl, (Germanic  
Languages and Literatures)

✓ Dr. Marcia E. Farr (Teaching and  
Learning)  
Dr. Jay S. Hobgood (Geography)  
Dr. Michael Ibba (Microbiology)  
✓ Dr. Daniel A. Mendelsohn (Mechanical  
Engineering)  
Dr. Robert J. Ward (Music)

#### **Students:**

✓ Mr. Robert D. Calhoun (CGS, History of  
Art)

✓ Ms. Sarah K. Douglas (CGS, History)  
✓ Mr. Benjamin T. Reinke (USG, Physcs)

#### **Administrators:**

✓ Dr. W. Randy Smith, (Academic Affairs), Vice Chair

#### **Guests:**

Dr. Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost;  
Professor, Psychology)  
Mr. John E. Dickhaut (Office of the  
University Registrar)  
Dr. Terry L. Gustafson (Arts and Sciences)  
Dr. Kathleen M. Hallihan (ASC Curriculum  
and Assessment Office)

Dr. Alan L. Kalish (Director, Faculty and  
TA Development)  
Mr. David E. Roy (Director, Enrollment  
Services)  
Dr. Elliot E. Slotnick (Graduate School)  
Dr. John D. Wanzer (Assistant Provost)

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The Council came to order at 3:15 PM.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR DANIEL A. MENDELSON**

Daniel A. Mendelsohn reported that the subcommittee structure is being reconfigured. The four subcommittees will be A, B, D, and one that reviews centers. The purpose of the reconfiguration is to reduce the number of assignments given to members of the council. The committee assignments will be posted on the web after the meeting.

Mendelsohn asked Alexis C. Collier to report on assessment. Collier discussed how assessment is being included in the course approval process for GEC courses. An assessment plan is required for GEC courses. The information made available to faculty proposing GEC courses is being improved to provide greater clarity and specific examples to help faculty members write better proposals. W. Randy Smith added that outcomes assessment is a nationwide effort driven by the regional accreditation bodies.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH**

Smith mentioned that the search for an executive dean of the Arts and Sciences is moving forward; campus visits are being planned for April.

Smith also reported that on the progress of the ad-hoc committee on semester conversion. The ad-hoc committee held a faculty forum on February 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Faculty Council meeting where the Faculty Council approved a resolution to send to the University Senate endorsing converting to a semester calendar. The Council on Enrollment and Student Progress will review the resolution prior to a vote on the March 12 meeting of the University Senate.

Smith discussed several international programs under way at Ohio State.

### **PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D—PROFESSORS DANIEL A. MENDELSON AND W. RANDY SMITH**

- **Faculty and TA Development Center Proposal**

Smith presented a proposal by the Office of Faculty and TA Development to change its name to the University Center for the Advancement of Teaching. Alan L. Kalish discussed how the name change would better capture the mission of the office and represents a name that is more common among the university's benchmark institutions.

Approval of the name change was moved by James W. Cogdell, seconded by Sarah K. Douglas, and approved by voice vote.

- **Global Health graduate interdisciplinary specialization**

Mendelsohn presented a proposal for a Global Health graduate interdisciplinary specialization. Elliot E. Slotnick answered questions from the council.

The motion was seconded by Benjamin T. Reinke and approved by voice vote.

- **Second Languages Studies graduate interdisciplinary specialization**

Mendelsohn presented a proposal for a Second Language Studies graduate interdisciplinary specialization. Slotnick answered questions from the council.

The motion was seconded by Robert D. Calhoun and approved by voice vote.

## **ITEMS FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS—PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH**

J. Briggs Cormier presented draft revisions to the Academic Organization and Curriculum Handbook on proposals for degrees, degree programs, and majors.

The current handbook contains two sections with nearly identical material for the submission of proposals on degrees/degree programs and majors. Cormier merged these two sections into one set of guidelines for submitting proposals for all of them. The council needs to consider whether or not these changes make sense. Smith added that these guidelines would be the guidelines in place should the conversion to semesters occur. The council needs to consider further whether these are the data that it needs when reviewing such proposals. The draft revisions will be revisited at a future council meeting.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Reinke brought up a proposal from the Undergraduate Student Government on textbooks. USG seeks to have more GEC textbooks available through University Libraries. USG also seeks to have faculty members make their list of required textbooks available through the area bookstores early enough for students to make informed financial decisions about their textbook purchases.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted

W. Randy Smith  
Kathleen M. Hallihan  
J. Briggs Cormier