

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

JULY 6, 2006

1:00-3:00PM

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Richard Gunther, Margaret McMahon, Raymond Noe (Chair), Electra Paskett, Nancy Reynolds, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), Harald Vaessin, George Valco

Student Members: Jane Evans (Council of Graduate Students).

Guests: Professor Elliot Slotnick, Associate Dean, Graduate School; Professors Richard Shiels, Interim Director, Newark Earthworks Initiative, and Lucy Murphy, OSU-Newark; and Jed Dickhaut, Office of the University Registrar

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF MAY 24 and JUNE 7, 2006

- McMahon moved approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 24, 2006. Valco seconded the motion and it carried with one abstention.
- Valco moved approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 7, 2006. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried with two abstentions.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR - PROFESSOR RAYMOND NOE

- Noe attended a meeting convened by Smith on June 29, 2006 where the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (ASC) presented its response to the Report of the University-wide Review of Undergraduate Education to representatives of other colleges with undergraduate programs. At this point ASC is proposing to reduce its General Education Requirements (GEC) by 5 hours in the “breadth” area (Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities) and is proposing to keep its minimum number of credit hours to graduation for the B.A. degree at 191. Smith will reconvene this same group later in July so that the other colleges can present their reactions to the Report.

Does Arts and Sciences have jurisdiction over deciding the total credit hours for graduation? Smith said that he and Dutta are researching this issue but

historically Colleges have brought their requests to Council for final approval, as occurred for example when ASC established its GEC in 1988 (with 196 hours) and revised it in 1996 (191 hours). In this case, ASC is indicating that it does not support the recommendation in the Report to reduce it to 180 hours but has provided no rationale for remaining at 191.

- Noe, Smith, and Paskett met with Professor Jan Weisenberger, Associate Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) on July 6, 2006 to discuss the SBS proposal to establish regular clinical track faculty. SBS seeks college-level approval for such a track but at this point only two academic units are likely to implement it soon - Speech and Hearing Sciences and Psychology. This is a different situation than we have seen with the other Colleges that have submitted proposals (Law, Engineering, Business) where all the units within the College wanted this track and submitted the full documentation for it.

Paskett indicated that to give approval to SBS at this point without information (at the course level) from other SBS units, violates the current Rule and guidelines, and Subcommittee C does not want to be put in that position. How do we proceed?

McMahon asked if the whole College had voted on the proposals. Paskett said that it had but that only 40+% of the faculty voted, but for this College, which does not have a culture of regular full faculty meetings and votes, that turnout value was high.

It was noted that earlier this year, when the Fisher College of Business wanted to change its proposal, Council indicated that it was time to revisit the rule/guidelines, because to some, we were beginning to micromanage the colleges. Smith said that he did not want to put SBS on hold, waiting for the Rules to change, a process that could take many months. It was suggested that because this proposal was so different than others that we had seen, and may be more like others that may come from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, perhaps we should let the College proposal move forward, and in so doing approve the two academic units within it that were ready to start, and then require that every other unit within SBS bring its own specific proposal forward for approval when it is ready.

Vaessin wanted to ensure that approval of the first two units, should it occur, did not mean automatic approval of others from within SBS that might come forward later. Others agreed. Smith indicated that Council would need to enforce the process of each of the remaining units within the College coming forward on its own for independent review.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE-CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- The Board of Trustees will act on the proposals to merge the Colleges of Education and Human Ecology, and to create the new School of Earth Sciences, at its meeting on July 7, 2006. He will attend the meeting.
- Professor Alan Silverman, Chair of Faculty Council, has met with him and indicated that the proposals to establish a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program in the Moritz College of Law, and a Ph.D. in Dance Studies will be on the agenda of the next University Senate meeting (October 12, 2006). The status of the proposal to create a Department of Urology proposal remains unclear.

Gunther expressed concern about the way the Department of Urology proposal was being processed. Vaessin elaborated on the issue of the need for greater clarity in the use of clinical faculty. Smith said that Silverman will meet with the College of Medicine's Faculty Council in July to address issues relating to clinical track faculty in that College and that are seen to be, by the current Senate leadership, of relevance to this proposal.

- Three proposals for centers will be discussed at the Summer meetings – one at each meeting. All three have been under review for a year (in one case) or more (in two cases) and the Council needs to act on them, as well as make changes to the center review process.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS RAYMOND NOE AND W. RANDY SMITH

- Smith indicated that he had received:
 - i) a proposal from the School of Allied Medical Professions to change the name of one of its divisions from Radiologic Technology to Radiologic Sciences and Therapy. The proposal is based on the changing nature of the field and had the support of the faculty and the Dean of the College.
 - ii) A proposal from the College of Biological Sciences to abolish the Division of Sensory Biophysics. Following the retirement of the only faculty member associated with this division, there are now no faculty, students, or staff associated with the division or its program. The Dean supports the abolition.

Smith asked the Council if there were any objections. There was none. The Council unanimously approved both proposals.

- Noe presented proposals for two graduate interdisciplinary specializations and two graduate minors, all of which had been approved by the Council on Research and Graduate Studies. Professor Elliot Slotnick, Associate Dean, Graduate School, commented on each proposal.
 - i) Subcommittee D moved approval to establish a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean. Paskett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - ii) Subcommittee D moved approval to establish a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Sexuality Studies. Paskett seconded the motion. Slotnick explained that the protocol calls for courses from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, Human Ecology, Education, and Social Work and said that the Graduate School was satisfied with the proposal. The motion carried unanimously.
 - iii) Subcommittee D moved approval to establish a Graduate Minor in Theatre and Performance. Paskett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - iv) Subcommittee D moved approval to establish a Graduate Interdisciplinary Minor/Minor in Applied Software Engineering. Paskett seconded the motion. Questions were raised about the title of the proposal. Slotnick explained that a student in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) will pursue an interdisciplinary minor, while those outside CSE will pursue a minor. The motion carried unanimously.

- Smith presented a proposal from the School of Allied Medical Professions to reduce the number of credit hours required in the Masters of Occupational Therapy Program. Reynolds seconded the motion. Slotnick and Smith explained that the current program had more hours than is required formally in such programs for specialized accreditation. The faculty support the change and the Council on Research and Graduate Studies approved it. The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE NEWARK EARTHWORKS CENTER – PROFESSOR ELECTRA PASKETT, CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE C

Paskett gave a brief background of the proposal noting that Subcommittee C had completed its review late in the 2004-05 academic year and that it had not been re-reviewed by the Subcommittee during the 2005-06 year. She is the only current member of that Subcommittee to have evaluated the proposal. Smith added that the proposal had been with the University Research Committee (URC) during the most recent academic year and that Committee had only just finished its review in June 2006. Smith stressed to Council that the length of time to complete the review was a reflection of an alignment issue among Senate committees not a reflection of the quality of the proposal.

Paskett outlined the rationale for the proposal. Earthworks is a large complex located near the OSU-Newark campus. It will be the base for ongoing research, teaching, and

service by faculty from several disciplines, and the proposal has especially strong support from the Newark campus faculty. In 2001 the National Endowment for the Humanities commissioned a needs assessment in preparation for creating a regional humanities center. It specifically called for better teacher training and educational materials in Native American Studies. In response the Newark faculty organized a daylong conference on Native American Studies. The participants themselves called for the development of better pedagogies and materials for teaching about Native American History. The proposed center is uniquely prepared to contribute to the professional development of educators and quality teacher preparation. They already have outreach programs promoting this center, including a major event during Autumn 2005.

With regard to administration, originally a rotating Executive Committee was to oversee the operations of the Center. Subcommittee C recommended appointing a Director and that has occurred. The Center's Pattern of Administration now shows that the Center will have a Director, five Charter faculty members, affiliated faculty members and administrative support staff. The Pattern of Administration also clearly explains the budget and funding process. The funding will come from the Dean of Newark campus. There are very strong letters of support from individuals from across the country.

Comments from the URC – concerns about sustainability and the extent to which research is a major dimension of this proposal – had been addressed by those proposing the Center in a formal supplement. Valco asked to see the actual comments made by the URC and Smith provided each Council member with a copy.

DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSORS RICHARD SHIELS, INTERIM DIRECTOR, NEWARK EARTHWORKS INITIATIVE, AND LUCY MURPHY, OSU-NEWARK

Shiels provided a handout of updated activities and gave an overview of the proposal. The Center will be active in the areas of teaching, research, and outreach. It will create courses and curricular materials for all education levels and have an impact on the methodology of teaching native culture. The focus of the Center is also very broad. They plan to focus on much more than the Newark Earthworks. They plan to work closely with others including historians, anthropologists, artists, archeologist, astronomers, biologists, folklorists.

Murphy, who specializes in American Indian history, addressed the issue of the Center's research mission. She gave examples of ongoing work. She noted, for example, that they would develop methodology for interviewing Native Americans. Teachers will use these interviews to create educational materials. The proposed Center is also partnering with the American Indian community and is attracting research scholars to the new library on the Newark campus that has an American Indian section.

Shiels added that currently they have a grant from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences for \$50,000 to develop a website for the Newark Earthworks Center. They also are

working on a major grant proposal. Twelve teachers are involved in creating an American Indian curriculum. He addressed the concern of the URC about sustainability. He indicated that they are writing major grants to sustain the Center.

Does the funding come from the University's central administration? No, it comes from the Newark Campus Dean.

Subcommittee C moved approval; Vaessin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CENTERS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH, VICE CHAIR

As a follow-up to earlier Council discussions about needed changes to the process for establishing and reviewing centers/institutes Smith informed the Council that there is no additional written material beyond what had been provided by the committee chaired by Professor John Wilkins. The Council needs to act on this.

It was agreed that a special committee would now be established that would include Gunther, Paskett and Reynolds. It would: examine the current rule/guidelines, and with reference to the ad hoc committee report, suggest revisions; and would begin the review of a set of approved centers/institutes that had been established in the late 1990s.

Smith then indicated that Professor Paul Beck, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, had requested a status report on how to proceed with the abolition of the Center for Survey Research. Beck had met with Council on January 4, 2006 to indicate that this Center had been dismantled in recent years and wanted that action to become official.

Valco noted that current guidelines require that Council must take formal action and then send it to the University Senate and Board of Trustees for approval. It was agreed that although the rule/guidelines are about to be changed, we needed use existing process for this proposal but do so expeditiously. It was suggested that Beck could give Council a one-page request for abolition of this Center; that Council could act on it at the meeting on July 20, 2006; and if approved then, it would be sent to the University Senate for action at an Autumn 2006 meeting. In this way established process is followed but simultaneously the issue of abolition of centers could be addressed during the review of the center/institutes rule. All agreed that this was an appropriate approach. Smith will contact Beck and this proposal will be on the agenda for the meeting of July 20, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta