

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

November 15, 2006

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Sheryl Barringer, Daniel Collins, Lora Gingerich Dobos, Richard Gunther, Kay Halasek, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), George Valco, Brian Winer (Chair)

Student

Members: Rose Babington and Elaine Yeh (Undergraduate Student Government); Robert Calhoun and Jane Evans (Council of Graduate Students); and Sheila Rajashekara (Inter- Professional Council)

Guests: Professor Stanley Lemeshow, Dean, School of Public Health; Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean, Dr. Linda Schoen, Assistant Executive Dean, and Rod Romesburg, Program Director, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Professor Elliot Slotnick, Associate Dean, Graduate School; and Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of the University Registrar

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2006

- Minutes of the Meeting of November 1, 2006 will be reviewed and acted upon at the December 6, 2006 Council meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER

- At the November 9, 2006 University Senate meeting the Center for Microbial Interface Biology and the Newark Earthworks Center were approved. These Centers will be on the December 8, 2006 Board of Trustees' meeting agenda for final approval.

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

- The Center for Family Research proposal will be on the January 11, 2007 University Senate agenda. Professor Gavazzi was unavailable for the November 9, 2006 meeting.

- There will be a dinner with Executive Vice President and Provost Barbara R. Snyder, at the Faculty Club, on December 6, 2006 following the Council meeting.
- Smith informed the Council that he had recently been to Chicago for training to be a consultant evaluator for our regional accrediting agency - The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). He also had just attended the annual conference of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in Houston. He stressed that there is growing attention to accountability issues in higher education, with particular attention to student learning outcomes in general education curricula and undergraduate majors. The University is working diligently in this area and needs to continue to do so.

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE MASTER’S DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION – PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

Relevant e-mail communications between the Graduate School and the School of Communication, and a table listing course work in different graduate programs, were provided to the Council members, as requested at the November 1, 2006 meeting.

Professor Elliot Slotnick, Associate Dean, Graduate School, indicated that no major substantive issues arose during the Graduate School’s review of this proposal.

If approved, it will be sent to the Ohio Board of Regents for final approval, based on the change in the degree name. The M.A. in Professional Communication will be a tagged degree.

Slotnick informed the Council that this represents the last step in the reorganization of the School of Communication, and he does not foresee any programmatic changes in the near future.

Subcommittee B moved approval of the proposal. The motion was seconded and carried with one abstention.

Slotnick noted that the established committees of the Graduate School are continuing, despite ongoing campus-wide discussions of possible changes. Until formal changes are made, the current working relationship between this Council and the Council on Research and Graduate Studies will continue.

PROPOSAL FOR THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO OBTAIN COLLEGE STATUS – PROFESSOR E. KAY HALASEK, CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE B

Halasek informed the Council that the proposal from the School of Public Health to obtain College status was reviewed expeditiously. Subcommittee B discussed questions related to thresholds for faculty and students, the anticipated hiring in Epidemiology, and the Ph.D. in Biostatistics (its relationship to the Department of Statistics). All the questions that the

Subcommittee had were answered satisfactorily by Dean Lemeshow through a revised proposal. The tenure initiating unit (TIU) will remain at the college level. They expect to have ~100 graduate students per year.

The proposal was reviewed by the Faculty Council on November 2, 2006. There were no substantive comments except whether the current divisions will become departments once the school obtains college status.

Smith reviewed the recent history of this academic unit. In 2000, during the School's accreditation process, this Council approved a request for the School to report directly to the Provost. In 2005, the name Public Health was withdrawn from the name of the College of Medicine and Public Health. This is the first "new college" proposal since the mid-1980s.

DISCUSSION WITH THE PROFESSOR STANLEY LEMESHOW, DEAN, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Lemeshow gave a brief background on the proposal and his role in the recent history of the School. There were 27 faculty in the School few years ago, but now they have 41 faculty. The graduate student population increased from 170 to 240. Research funding has tripled in the last few years. They also have a new interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Public Health. The school has linkages with departments throughout the University. They are due for reaccreditation soon, and having the highest level of organizational structure (college) is a requirement to be reaccredited.

Lemeshow added that one issue that the Faculty Council raised was whether the divisions will be become departments once the school obtains college status. Lemeshow's response was that a transition from divisions to departments will happen eventually, but not immediately. In order to have departments they need to hire more faculty. Currently their goal is to build strong divisions and they have hired chairs to achieve that goal. He also noted that not all colleges at the University have departments. They plan to move all the divisions to departments at the same time in the future.

Subcommittee B moved approval of the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH, VICE CHAIR

i) oversight

Smith reiterated that there is strong support for a University-Level general education curriculum (GEC) Advisory Committee reporting to this Council, and he reviewed the proposed membership and draft charge. This will be tried for a year to see if it works. If we have continuous assessment of the GEC, as proposed here, there will be no need to establish special committees every few years.

Valco recommended a substantive change to the draft charge and Smith said that the revised document can brought to the Council for approval at the December 6, 2006 meeting. Smith

suggested that the committee could be implemented as early as January 2007. If we move in this direction, the University Senate leadership needs to be notified.

Council members asked about the numerical balance on the committee between the Arts and Sciences (ASC) colleges and the other colleges, and who would serve as Chairperson. Smith indicated that there has been a suggestion that the Chair be the same individual chairing the Arts and Science's subcommittee focused on GEC assessment - Professor Alexis Collier, ASC Assessment Coordinator. Collier (Department of Psychology) is well respected within the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences and by faculty in other colleges. In this scenario, the remainder of the committee could be 5 faculty from ASC, 5 faculty from other colleges, one student, and one professional adviser. Smith indicated that he felt strongly that this should be a committee composed of faculty and not administrators.

Winer asked to see the charge to the current assessment subcommittee of the ASC Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CCI) to address the issue of duplication of effort. Halasek wanted to ensure that the CCI subcommittee had seen the proposed charge for this Committee and she expressed concern about the work load of the subcommittee members participating in the University-Level GEC Advisory Committee.

On a related matter, Gunther expressed concerned that Council meetings and meetings of the ASC Senate continue to be scheduled for the same time. Some members of this Council need to attend those Senate meetings. Professor Edward H. Adelson Associate Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences noted that steps were being taken to address that issue effective Winter 2007.

ii) freshman clusters

Smith described the cluster concept as a different "delivery mechanism" for the GEC. Rod Romesburg and Linda Schoen, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, joined the discussion and informed the Council that there is a strong support for the cluster concept, and ASC has developed a plan on how to offer it. Smith said that, beyond ASC, other units may come forward with their proposal, and gave examples of colleges that had expressed interest.

Halasek asked for clarification on what the various subcommittees of the ASC CCI do. She also asked whether the department or the faculty is responsible for continued offering. Adelson offered the following clarification:

Subcommittee B is charged with considering all new courses that are seeking GEC status and assessing all existing GEC courses in the following categories: Writing and Related Skills, Arts and Humanities, Foreign Language, and International Issues component of the Diversity Experiences

Subcommittee C is charged with considering all new courses that are seeking GEC status and assessing all existing GEC courses in the following categories: GEC Quantitative and Logical Skills, Natural Science, Social Science, Issues of the Contemporary World, and Social Diversity in the United States

Subcommittee D is charged with the consideration of new Freshman Seminars and Professional Pathways Seminar courses and the development of the Freshman Seminar Program and Professional pathways Seminars.

Subcommittee E is charged with overseeing ASC's assessment plan. The committee works with the Assessment Coordinator on these issues.

Smith added that the cluster courses need not be permanent courses. At UCLA, where this concept has been implemented, these courses are offered for a while, and then may be replaced with new cluster courses.

Gunther brought Council's attention to the Resolution by the Arts and Sciences' Faculty Senate on June 7, 2006 to approve clusters beyond the freshman level: sophomore and senior clusters; honors cluster; integrated course offerings, and collections of existing courses, etc. Schoen indicated that they will be looking at cluster proposals for ranks 1 and 2 students. Later, proposals will be targeted at advanced levels. Gunther asked for a modification since this idea is not clearly articulated in the proposal submitted to Council. A revised Cluster Proposal was requested incorporating the changes discussed.

There was a question about course applicability to GEC categories. Schoen informed the Council that if a student takes 15 hours of cluster courses, credits will be accrued on a credit-for-credit basis, to the relevant GEC category. Students can take three cluster courses related in theme and take other courses in the major that are related to the cluster theme.

Halasek asked if the 4 graduate teaching associated (GTA) provided will be for every quarter and whether the faculty gets to choose the GTAs. The response was yes to both questions.

There were some student concerns about the cluster concept. Professional programs have very structured curricula, so it will be difficult for students in those programs to take a cluster.

It was proposed that a broader application of courses already being taken in the major, be offered as a cluster sequence and they should be offered at a set time year after year so that students can plan their schedule.

It was suggested that students complete a form showing the cluster sequence they "plan" to take so some form of tracking and adherence to the concept are maintained.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta