

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1039 DERBY HALL

OCTOBER 3, 2007

3:00 - 5:00 PM

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Sheryl Barringer, Lawrence A. Baum, Marcia Farr, E. Kay Halasek (Chair), Michael Ibba, Daniel A. Mendelsohn, John M. Robinson, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), Brian L. Winer.

Student Members: Rose Babington (Undergraduate Student Government).

Guests: Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of the University Registrar; David Roy, Senior Assistant Director, Enrollment Services; Professor Martha M. Garland, Vice Provost for Enrollment Services and Dean of Undergraduate Education; Professor Katherine Meyer, Associate Provost; Professor Linda Harlow, Associate Provost, and Director, University Honors and Scholars Center.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

- Winer moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 6, 2007 with corrections suggested by Gunther. The motion was seconded by Babington and passed with one abstention.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR E. KAY HALASEK

- There were no comments from the Chair except she welcomed new members.

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

- An orientation for new members of the Council was held on September 19, 2007. Halasek and Smith led the session.
- The proposal from Professors David Tomasko, Director, the Collegium, and Susan Olesik, Department of Chemistry, to establish the Ohio House of Science and Engineering, was approved at the Board of Trustees' meeting on September 21, 2007.

- President E. Gordon Gee started on October 1, 2007 as the 14th President of the University. He is scheduled to speak at a meeting of the Faculty Council on October 4, 2007.
- The first meeting of the year of the University Senate is on October 11, 2007.
- Smith met with Executive Dean Jacqueline J. Royster to discuss the Council's reaction to the proposal for the Institute on Women, Gender and Public Policy. Halasek and Smith will meet with her soon to outline next steps. The new director of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, the Chair of the Department of Women's Studies, and the Director of the Women's Place will be invited to Council to discuss the proposal. Halasek asked Dutta to forward the proposal to new members of the Council.
- Smith indicated that he is asking academic units to withdraw courses that have not been offered for five or more years, and he will then facilitate the procedural steps to do so.
- There is growing interest from selected high schools to in engage in dual enrollment with the University – notably through Grade 12 language classes. The University will proceed with this activity and a committee will be formed to review such proposals and then report to the Office of Academic Affairs and this Council.
- Each college and department/school has been given data on its doctoral program(s) and is in the process of analyzing them. Professor Patrick Osmer, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, is meeting with each Dean to discuss the data and next steps relating to the current status of her/his doctoral programs. If any changes are proposed, this Council will be involved in implementation.

ARTICULATION PROPOSAL WITH NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE FOR THE EARLY AND MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATON PROGRAM AT OSU-MANSFIELD - PROFESSORS E. KAY HALASEK AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

Halasek gave an overview of the proposal. The proposal is for a partnership between these co-located campuses for a transition from the current credentialed associate degree program to the Bachelor's degree. The agreement ensures that students currently in the program clearly understand the curricular plan, the equivalencies, the substitution plan and the General Education Curriculum (GEC) options. A program information sheet was included in the proposal. This proposal has the support of Dean Evelyn Freeman, OSU-Mansfield. Relevant units were consulted in the development of this proposal.

Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, suggested that it should not be officially approved until the Middle Childhood Education major oversight committee has had the opportunity to react to this proposal.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal pending follow up review by the Arts and Sciences' Middle Childhood major oversight committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**ANNUAL REPORT, UNIVERSITY HONORS AND SCHOLARS CENTER -
PROFESSOR LINDA HARLOW, ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND CENTER
DIRECTOR**

Smith informed the Council that when the Center was established as an academic center late in 2005, a requirement was that an annual report be presented to Council. This is the first.

Harlow distributed and discussed several tables. There are three goals of the Honors Center: recruitment of high ability students to the university; enrichment of their academic experience through undergraduate research and study abroad; and effective academic advising.

The document entitled "End of Year Honors Report" was of considerable interest. There were 1736 honors students who entered the university in Autumn 2006. 1232 honors students continued in Honors in Fall 2007 without any conditions such as maintaining a GPA of 3.4; 135 students were on conditional Honors status; 5 students graduated with Honors status in spring 2007; 290 students lost their Honors status at the end of the first year.

Mendelsohn asked if they are satisfied with these numbers. Harlow responded that they would like to see a higher number of students graduate with Honors status.

There were 455 Honors classes with 70% taught by regular tenure track faculty and 30% taught by non-tenure track faculty. Every effort is made to ensure that the honors courses are not taught by graduate students. The non-tenure track faculty are chosen in consultation with the chair of the department. The minimum qualification required is a doctoral degree or a terminal degree with outstanding credentials. It is difficult to have all honors courses taught by faculty, because the honors acceptance rate has gone up by 400 students in the last two years.

Only Business, Environment and Natural Resources, Nursing, and Engineering are tracking their Honors students after graduation.

There are 3171 students in the Honors Scholars program with an average GPA of 3.26 and 5319 Honors students with an average GPA of 3.65.

In 2005, there were 1277 Honors students enrolled at the beginning of the year and 96.6% returned the next year. There were 3846 non-honors (including scholars) enrolled at the beginning of the year and only 3417 or 88.8% returned. Harlow reviewed the data on number of honors sections by Quarter since 2004 – noting the overall pattern of growth.

The Center has created an Alumni website that includes students as far back from 1976.

A list of approved Honors Embedded courses was also distributed. Harlow indicated that offering Honors Embedded courses is more work for the faculty with no compensation. Honors Embedded courses cannot be offered in place of existing Honors courses.

352 students participated in the Denman undergraduate research competition in 2007. The number of National Award winners has gone up from 9 in 2000-2001 to 35 in 2006-2007.

Effective Autumn 2008, the criteria for Honors designation will be a combined ACT score of 30, or a total SAT score of 1360 for incoming New First Quarter Freshman (NFQF).

**ANNUAL REPORT - STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTION (SEI) -
PROFESSOR KATHERINE MEYER, ASSOCIATE PROVOST**

Meyer informed the Council that an SEI Subcommittee consisting of faculty and staff, was created six years ago to keep track of utilization of SEIs. Professor Richard Gunther (Political Science), recently a member of this Council, and Smith are members. This Subcommittee meets quarterly.

A pilot study of electronic versus paper SEIs was done. Instructors can choose which form they would like to use. The Response rate for paper SEIs is higher. There was a Public Records request from The Lantern for SEI scores. There also are requests from faculty to use SEI results for research. They are planning to put SEI scores on the Registrar's web site in response to requests from undergraduate and graduate student governments. There are ongoing efforts to put syllabi for general education curriculum (GEC) courses on line to help students make choices about GEC courses. Meyer noted that SEI forms will not have social security numbers, and that most junior faculty tend to use SEI forms more, given that they need documentation for personnel actions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm

Respectfully Submitted by

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta

