

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FACULTY CLUB, A

August 18, 2008

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Present:

Professors: Lawrence A. Baum; Daniel E. Collins; Marcia E. Farr; Lora G. Dobos; E. Kay Halasek, Chair; Michael Ibba; Daniel A. Mendelsohn; John M. Robinson; W. Randy Smith, Vice Chair; and Brian L. Winer.

Student Members: None.

Guests: Diana Bevilacqua (Department of Mathematics, Advisor); Professor Alexis C. Collier, Associate Provost; Jed Dickhaut (Office of the University Registrar); Dr. Kathleen M. Hallihan (Director, Curriculum and Assessment Office, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences); Professor Ronald Solomon (Department of Mathematics); Professor Neelam Soundarajan (Department of Computer Science and Engineering); Dr. John D. Wanzer (Assistant Provost); and Professor Robert J. Ward.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 4, 2008 AND JULY 16, 2008

Mendelsohn moved approval of the minutes of June 4, 2008 and July 16, 2008. Collins seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR E. KAY HALASEK

In July 2008, Halasek jointly with Professor Robert S. Coleman, chair of the University Research Committee (URC), sent a request for basic information to all academic centers on campus. This information is being collated and will be used to determine which centers are “university” centers that will need a joint review by the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) and URC. Smith added that this information will be used to follow up with colleges to ensure that their patterns of administration have procedures for reviewing college-level centers.

Collins asked if the area studies centers under the Office of International Affairs (OIA) would fall under this review. Smith answered that they are not currently planned for university-wide review by CAA and URC. He reported that the search is under way for a new Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International affairs, and so it is time to discuss these centers more broadly. Smith is a member of the search committee.

Halasek shared a copy of the annual report of the College of Medicine's Biomedical Sciences undergraduate major program. Smith said that because of the controversial nature of the program, a condition of its approval was a thorough review after four years. The Council will undertake this review in 2009-10.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith updated the Council on the status of its 2008-09 membership.

Smith reported that during July 2008 he served as Interim Executive Dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. The University sent out a Request for Proposals for a consulting firm to review fiscal and human resources operations of the five colleges. A report is due in January 2009.

The Interim Executive Dean and the 3 interim divisional deans (arts/humanities; social and behavioral sciences; and biological sciences/mathematical and physical sciences) are all now housed in University Hall. The Search Committee for the Executive Dean will be announced later this month.

Smith reported on the Ohio Language Roadmap, a state-wide initiative to ensure that students begin studying contemporary languages earlier. We are hosting a meeting with faculty from universities around the state on August 28, 2008 to discuss the Roadmap.

The University is applying for a new Carnegie designation for distinction in outreach education. The application is due September 1, 2008.

The proposal for the Institute on Women, Gender, and Policy Studies will likely return to Council in the Autumn. Halasek and Smith will meet with Dr. Julie Graber, Interim Director, and Professor Joan Leitzel, Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost soon to discuss next steps.

Smith reported on two minor items. The Graduate School forwarded a proposal from the John Glenn School of Public Affairs altering its exit requirement. The requirement is dropping from a two-course ungraded sequence to one graded course. Smith supported the proposal and Council members had no questions/concerns.

The College of Medicine is seeking temporary use of the term "center" for the Center for Palliative Care, and for Center for Translational Research Computing that was included as part of a major NIH grant proposal that it recently received. Smith reviewed each proposal and Council members had no objections.

The Department of Neurology is seeking use of the term "center" for the Peripheral Neuropathy Center. Collins asked whether there were faculty outside of the Department who are also involved in the center's work. Smith will follow up to determine whether the center will only include faculty from Neurology.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS E. KAY HALASEK AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Proposal to revise the Computer and Information Science (CIS) Bachelor of Science Minor**

Halasek reported on the nature of the requested revisions. The revisions align the two minors, Information Systems and Programming and Algorithms, to 19 core hours and 6 – 8 elective hours. Some requirements are changed, and some are dropped, but no hours are added to either proposal. Professor Neelam Soundarajan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, noted a request that the Department of Mathematics made after the proposal had been submitted. “Mathematics 366” should be replaced with “Mathematics 345 or 366”. Halasek entertained Soundarajan’s request for an amendment to the proposal; Mendelsohn seconded. The motion to amend was approved by voice vote.

The motion to approve the full proposal was seconded by Mendelsohn and was approved by voice vote.

- **Proposals to revise the Computer Science Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Majors**

Halasek reported on the nature of the requested revisions to the BA and the BS degree programs. Changes to the BS include a ten hour reduction of the GEC; the addition of a capstone course, including recommendations for the capstone within each track; the addition of a one-credit course on ethics; and several changes to individual courses. Changes to the BA also included a reduction of the GEC and the addition of the one-credit course on ethics. There is no addition to the credit hours for the majors. Additions in both cases are off-set by reductions in other requirements.

The motion was seconded by Baum and approved by voice vote.

- **Proposal to revise the Mathematics Minor**

Halasek reported on the nature of the requested revisions to the Math minor. The most significant change was to create a separate Mathematics “honors” minor. The honors minor has three options: 20 hours with at least 2 honors courses and a 3.0 GPA; 22 hours with 1 honors course and a 3.2 GPA; or 25 hours with a 3.3 GPA.

The Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (ASC) Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CCI) had raised the question as to whether or not a department can require that honors students take the honors minor. Halasek contacted Professor Linda L. Harlow, Director, University Honors and Scholars Center, who indicated that there is a precedent—

Spanish. Kathleen M. Hallihan, Director, Curriculum and Assessment Office added that the Arts and Sciences Honors Committee thoroughly reviewed this proposal and approved it.

Halasek's concern was what would happen to an honors student who completed the courses but did not meet the GPA requirement. This concern was echoed within the Council, and Hallihan reported that this had also been a concern with the ASC Committee on Curriculum and Instruction.

Collins raised a concern about an honors minor without having any required honors courses. Professor Ronald Solomon, Department of Mathematics, responded that Mathematics originally did not intend to require honors students to take the honors minor, but were overruled by University Honors. Diana Bevilacqua added that Mathematics came up with the three different ways to obtain the honors minor.

The questions were sufficiently complex that the Council wanted additional information from Honors before taking a vote on the honors minor. Halasek entertained the motion to vote on the Mathematics minor and the Mathematics honors minor separately, tabling the honors minor until representatives from Mathematics and Honors could attend a council meeting to answer questions. The motion was seconded by Collins and approved by voice vote.

The motion to approve the Mathematics minor was seconded by Lora G. Dobos and approved by voice vote.

- **Proposal to revise the Actuarial Science minor**

Halasek introduced the proposal that seeks changes in response to requirements for accreditation. The revisions include adding substantive content (and 1 hour of credit) to four courses; replacing courses that are no longer offered with courses that are; and dropping a course to accommodate the increase in credits in the minor.

The motion was seconded by Mendelsohn and approved by voice vote.

- **Proposal to revise the History minor**

Halasek introduced the proposal. The revision includes an increase in 5 hours (20 to 25) in order to accommodate a new required course 398 (C minimum grade). The minor allows for an overlap with the General Education Curriculum (GEC) requirements and eliminates a geographical distribution requirement that creates an emphasis on depth rather than breadth within the minor.

Robinson asked if there was a significant difference between a C and a C- minimum grade for a course. Halasek replied that units using courses as gate-keeping courses often

use C as a minimum. Ibba also added that the quality of students makes it easier to have a higher minimum which also allows for greater rigor later in the curriculum.

Collins raised the issue about when students would take 398 and the nature of structured advice that students planning a History minor receive. The Council amended the language by striking “may organize their minor as they wish, but” and adding “students are also encouraged to consult with a minors advisor in preparing their minor program.”

The motion was seconded by Dobos and approved by voice vote.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR FOR 2008 – 2009

Following a brief set of comments, Halasek nominated Mendelsohn for the chairmanship of the Council for the 2008-09 academic year. He accepted the nomination. He was elected by voice vote. Following Council tradition, Smith, as the Provost’s designee, will serve as Vice Chair providing administrative support to the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An orientation for new committee members will be scheduled before the first meeting in October.

The Council adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
J. Briggs Cormier