

MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
FACULTY MEETING
Wednesday, 10 April 2013
3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of the Fall Faculty Meeting on December 6, 2012.

Stephen Burnett (*Classics & Religious Studies*) noted the minutes should indicate that Stephen Burnett withdrew the proposal to split the Classics and Religious Studies majors. The unit will proceed with offering a Classics and Religious Studies major (with separate paths through the major for students interested specifically in Classical Studies or Religious Studies). Stephen Burnett then moved to approve the minutes. **John Osterman** (*Biological Sciences*) seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Item II. Opening Comments and Administrative Matters

Dean Manderscheid thanked everyone for coming. He then announced the continued appointment of **Lloyd Ambrosius** (*History*) as Parliamentarian. Bill Watts (*Assistant Dean for Student Success*) and Deborah Minter (*English, Associate Dean for Academic Programs*) agreed to take the minutes as the secretary had been detained.

Item III. Opportunity for Faculty to Ask Questions Arising from the Annual Reports of the Various College Committees

The annual reports of the College's Executive Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Student Academic Distinction, Awards and Appeals Committee, Curriculum and Advising Committee, Faculty Instructional development Committee, Assessment Committee, and Endowed/College Professorships Committee were all accepted without any questions.

Recommendations of the College Curriculum and Advising Committee:

Item IV. Proposed recommendation to approve changes to the Scientific Base: approved without discussion.

Item V. Proposed recommendation to approve changes to the Biological Sciences major and minor: approved without discussion.

Item VI: Proposed recommendation to approve changes to the Classics & Religious Studies major/minor: approved without discussion.

Item VII: Proposed recommendation to approve changes to the Environmental Studies major: **John Osterman** (*Biological Sciences*) questioned the rationale for replacing the former BIOS 103 requirement with LIFE 120 (when LIFE 121 had focus on organismic biology). Osterman also shared a concern about allowing BIOS 101 (identified in the bulletin as a course for students who are not science majors) to count toward this major. **Diana Pilson** (*Biological Sciences*) also registered a concern regarding the highly scripted nature of the major. **Deborah Minter** (*English, Associate Dean for Academic Programs*) explained that she was in conversation with the unit on behalf of the curriculum committee for a review of the A&S Environmental Studies major with a view toward streamlining the requirements. The proposal was approved.

Item VIII: Proposed recommendation to approve new Digital Humanities minor: **Will Thomas** (*History*) expressed enthusiastic support of the minor. Ken Price (*English*) also offers strong support. The proposal was approved.

Item IX. Opportunity to Ask Questions of the Dean

Steve Leahy (*Classics and Religious Studies*) asked the Dean to discuss the status of the digital measures initiative. **Dean Manderscheid** agreed to do so and asked Leahy to provide some background for his question. Leahy explained that in his work with the UNL's Academic Planning Committee he had the opportunity to hear **Associate Vice Chancellor Lance Perez** discuss the initiative as a tool which creates an electronic database of faculty work, drawing on cvs. **Leahy** suggested that he could see several benefits of the tool. **Anthony Starace** (*Physics & Astronomy*) asked whether the process of supplying cvs electronically to the college for the purposes of annual review could be used to populate digital measures. **Dean Manderscheid** explained the history of efforts at UNL to implement an electronic database through which faculty work could be represented, aggregated and disaggregated in meaningful ways. **Dean Manderscheid** noted that this latest effort, known as "digital measures," would be implemented in such a way as to provide units reasonable flexibility to ask for the kinds of formatting of cvs that allow them to make the kinds of judgments they need to make about work within the field. **Anthony Starace** (*Physics & Astronomy*) asked how digital measures would treat grants with multiple investigators. **Dean Manderscheid** noted that research dollars are best tracked by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and their research tools. **Will Thomas** (*History*) shared his experience with an earlier system (piloted in some units at UNL some years earlier), and the challenges it posed for the History Department. In particular, the data entry required of such systems were overwhelming for a large department. **Steve Leahy** (*Classics and Religious Studies*) shared that from Perez's presentation, Leahy understood that UNL Libraries would be entering the bibliographic information. **Dan Hoyt** (*Sociology, Associate Dean for Faculty*) noted that other colleges piloting digital measures may have more homogenous work profiles such that pilots in those colleges may not surface the challenges such an initiative might pose for a college like Arts & Sciences. **Marco Abel** (*English*) noted issues of assessing the quality of journals/publications and the inability of a database to recognized differences of this type. **Evelyn Jacobsen** (*Modern Languages and Literatures*) noted unique challenges for a department like hers, where data entry requires some knowledge of many different languages. **Dean Manderscheid** noted that Senior Vice Chancellor's Office indicated the need for such an initiative to be customizable to the wide range of work happening across the campus and for varying kinds of peer review processes.

Marco Abel (*English*) noted that while there is demand that UNL faculty be top scholars in their areas, there is minimal travel funding to support the dissemination of this work at conferences and asked whether there are plans to review travel funding policies. **Will Thomas** (*History*) seconded concern and stated that he would support a review of travel funding policies at the college level and (if warranted) a change to the current process. **Dean Manderscheid** suggested that we might research travel funding in other Big 10 institutions. **Dan Hoyt** (*Sociology, Assoc. Dean for Academic Programs*) expressed support for revisiting travel funding policies and practices. **Simon Wood** (*Classics and Religious Studies*) asked about the possibility of allowing travel funds to roll-over from one year to the next (especially for faculty who travel internationally where travel costs are higher). **Dean Manderscheid** explained that this isn't an option, but noted that not all faculty use college travel dollars in a single year. **Stephen Burnett** (*Classics and Religious Studies*) noted that the humanities units rely heavily on existing travel funds as they have fewer grants providing for travel.

Following this discussion, the faculty meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Watts (Assistant Dean for Student Success)

10 April 2013