

Fall Faculty Meeting Notes

12/08/2016

3:30-3:50 Refreshments

3:50 Meeting called to order by Dean Francisco

Item I. Call for Approval of minutes from the Spring Faculty Meeting on April 7, 2016 by Dean Francisco.

Motion to approve: John Osterman, SBS

Seconded: Marco Abel, English

Any amendments, additions, etc? Hearing none, approved with one abstention.

Item II. Opening Comments by Dean Francisco.

Call for approval of Parliamentarian – Steve Lahey: Approved unanimously.

Recommendations from the College Curriculum and Advising Committee

Item III. Recommendation from the College Curriculum & Advising Committee to approve the proposed removal of the major in Great Plains Studies.

Discussion: Mark van Roojen asked whether this curriculum change was controversial? Associate Dean Griffin responded that this change had been recommended by the unit's external review team and that the Director of Great Plains Studies agreed with it. She explained that enrollment in this major is very low; 1 student will need to be grandfathered in if this proposal is approved today. She explained that this program relies on other units to run courses necessary for its major. The minor, however, is easier to administer and is more heavily enrolled. It will continue. Patty Simpson (MODL) moved for the vote and Marco Abel (ENGL) seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of removing the major.

Item IV. Opportunity to ask questions of the Dean

Dean Francisco offered remarks before taking questions.

Announced that the College's Professor of Practice guidelines were now up on the College website and called Associate Dean Beth Theiss Morse to describe the process and answer questions. Assoc. Dean Theiss Morse explained that the guidelines had shifted (since the focus groups and meetings with constituencies across the college) due to feedback from Academic Affairs in terms of what is or is not allowable. For example, the mentoring committee had wanted a line in the document concerning the timeline for promotion but Academic Affairs wanted the line removed. Assoc. Dean Theiss Morse acknowledged that there has been some concerns voiced about the requirement of external letters for promotion but that the feeling of the Dean's Office is it is important to have this work reviewed by people outside our own inner circles. Assoc. Dean Theiss Morse explained, also, that one goal in putting these guidelines together (given that they are parallel in many ways to the guidelines for tenure and promotion

within the tenured ranks) is to be sure that PoPs gain the status they deserve as faculty, Bev Rylett (ENGL) then asked whether the external letters could specify that the person under review is either “an expert in the field” or “an expert in pedagogy.” She wanted to be sure that either kind of expertise was allowed. She also asked if there is information about the criteria that will be used to assess PoP candidate materials? Assoc. Dean Theiss Morse explained that the college is encouraging departments to identify criteria (appropriate to the discipline) that would be applied to these files. John Osterman (SBS) asked whether there was a prohibition on Professors of Practice voting on promotion. Assoc. Dean Theiss Morse explained that Academic Affairs will need to make that call. At this point, there is no university-wide policy.

The Dean asked for the support of those present in moving these guidelines forward. They were unanimously approved. The group present applauded the work of Assoc. Dean Theiss Morse in soliciting the advice of so many, holding focus groups for those most affected and getting the guidelines drafted.

The Dean then identified some highlights from the past academic year including:

Recognizing the amount of service/engagement that college faculty/academic units and programs are doing and finding more (and better) ways to recognize that work. **The College has developed two engagement awards:** one recognizes individuals for the contributions they are making (within the unit, campus, profession, or community). The other would recognize groups (which could be a whole department or program; or could be a group of faculty working together). All the information is available on the college website. The college encourages nominations.

Another highlight is the development of the **College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Academy**. The Dean explained that the genesis of the academy idea is the way alums of the college—across the country—describe the importance of their undergraduate experiences at UNL and in the College. Assoc. Dean Griffin explained that the design of the academy has come from the College’s Executive Committee. There will be four fellows competitively awarded each year for 3-year staggered terms. They will conduct some teaching-related research in their capacity as fellows but they are also charged with sharing that research and sponsoring teaching across the college.

Dean Francisco identified a third highlight in terms of supporting the **development of partnerships**. The College’s Executive Committee has been exploring broader ideas of partnership and opportunities for A&S to engage in partnerships. He explained that the Executive Committee has invited people in—learning what’s involved in initiating start-ups and how to think more broadly about them. For example, the state of Nebraska is supporting new start ups with a focus money on social impact. They’re now looking to connect people who have an idea of a non-profit that has a social benefit connection. Assoc. Dean Jockers explained that BOSR is conducting a survey for the College that is focused on existing and possible future partnership opportunities.

A fourth highlight for the year has been the launch of the **IDEA committee** (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access). Dean Francisco explained that it is his belief, the belief of the college exec committee and the belief of the college’s Chairs & Directors that anyone who comes into this college should be supported. With this in mind, the College has launched the IDEA committee: Alice Kang and Margaret Jacobs are co-chairs. That leadership has been important across the semester. They’re working to create venues for open discussion for students. They’re taking the

role of providing the Chancellor with ideas for how the university can be proactive in setting up the university wide diversity office. Julia McQuillan (SOC) expressed her appreciation that the group worked to discover what was already happening.

Additionally, the Dean reminded the group of the **2017 Future of the Humanities Symposium** taking place at UNL in March. The Dean identified members of the planning committee (chaired by Sidnie White Crawford of CLRS) and shared details about planned plenary speakers. He encouraged those with interests in the symposium to contact one of the planning team members.

The Dean opened the floor for questions.

Steve Leahy (CLRS) asked for a brief account of anticipated budget cuts, explaining that he had heard different figures. The Dean responded that he had not heard precise figures. The Dean said that it was his understanding that Vice Chancellor Chris Jackson was running some scenarios and that the Dean was having the college's Assistant Dean Kimbrough run some scenarios as well. Dean Francisco said that he sees the college as "operating at the margins" and unable to sustain deep cuts. He said that college administrators are working hard to make that message clear.

Jody Redepenning (CHEM) added an example from the Chemistry Department explaining that a 5% cut means a reduction in credit hour production. He said that from his standpoint, it doesn't make sense to cut sections. Cutting seats (due to financial constraints) while the campus is wanting to grow and improve on retention and graduation rates works at cross-purposes. when we're trying to grow enrollments and improve retention and graduation rates. The Dean agreed.

With no further questions or comments the meeting was adjourned at 4:57.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Debbie Minter