

College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting  
Thursday, April 13, 2017  
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Nebraska Union  
Colonial A

3:30 p.m. Refreshments  
3:45 p.m. Meeting begins

## AGENDA

- Item I. Approval of minutes from the Fall Faculty Meeting on December 8, 2016. (See appendix).
- Item II. Opening comments.
- Item III. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees. (See appendix)
- Executive Committee
  - Promotion and Tenure Committee
  - Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards, and Appeals
  - Curriculum and Advising Committee
  - Assessment Committee
  - Research Advisory Committee
  - Endowed/College Professorships Committee
- Item IV. Recommendation from the College Curriculum & Advising Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Academic Programs and Policies, Course Restrictions in the college portion of the Undergraduate Bulletin. (See appendix.)
- Item IV. Opportunity to ask questions of the Dean.

## APPENDIX

Item I. Approval of minutes from the Fall Faculty Meeting on December 8, 2016.  
**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

### **Item III. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees.**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Committee offers advice and comment to the Dean's office and discusses issues identified by the Dean. Executive committee meeting minutes can be found at <http://cas.unl.edu/executivecommittee.shtml>.

An ad hoc committee considered nominations for College and University teaching awards, College Outstanding Research and Creativity Awards, the Engagement Awards and the McClymont Award. The awardees will be honored at various events including the College of Arts and Sciences Celebration of Excellence on April 21, 2017.

College Distinguished Teaching Award winners are: Elizabeth Enkin, Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures; Emily Hammerl, Assistant Professor of Practice, Anthropology; Alexander Sinitkii, Associate Professor, Nebraska Center for Materials and Nanoscience and Chemistry; Kelly Stage, Assistant Professor, English; Daniel Toundykov, Associate Professor, Mathematics; and Manda Williamson, Assistant Professor of Practice, Psychology

The College Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Awardees are: in the Social Sciences, Psychology Associate Professor Michael Dodd and in the Sciences, Chemistry Professor Robert Powers

The College of Arts and Sciences Engagement Awardees: The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Jeannette Eileen Jones, Associate Professor, History and Ethnic Studies

The Hazel R. McClymont Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award recipient is Mark Griep, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

The Committee selected one nomination for the Annis Chaikin Sorensen Award to forward to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor. Our nominee, Professor of English, Julia Schleck, received the award.

Two nominations for the Harold and Esther Edgerton Junior Faculty Award were forwarded to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor: Maital Neta, Psychology, received the award.

**2016-2017 Committee members:** Adam Houston, Kirk Dombrowski, Iker Gonzalez-Allende, Dawn O. Braithwaite, Eileen Hebets, Eve Brank, Jeannette Eileen Jones, Patrick Dussault, Dean Joseph S. Francisco, June Griffin, Matthew L. Jockers, Diana Pilson and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Dawn O. Braithwaite (Engagement Awards only), Kirk Dombrowski, Patrick Dussault, and Jeannette Eileen Jones

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROMOTION & TENURE COMMITTEE**

The annual review of tenure and promotion recommendations began in late November. The committee reviewed 11 recommendations regarding promotion to Associate Professor with tenure, 5 recommendations regarding promotion to Full Professor, 2 recommendations for promotion to Associate Professor of Practice, 1 recommendation for promotion to Full Professor of Practice, and 1 recommendation for promotion to Full Research Professor. The committee also interviewed 13 job candidates at various ranks for consideration of promotion and/or tenure.

**2016-17 Committee Members:** Professors Jacob Cheadle (Sociology), David Henderson (Philosophy), Myra Cohen (Computer Science & Engineering), Debra Hope (Psychology), Kenneth Winkle (History), David Harwood (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), Associate Dean Elizabeth Theiss-Morse, Dean Joseph Francisco

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ACADEMIC DISTINCTION, AWARDS AND APPEALS Distinction**

This report covers the period of three graduations: August 2016, December 2016, and May 2017. The College of Arts & Sciences awarded degrees with distinction as follows:

- based on academic record and submission of a thesis
  - 14 degrees with Highest Distinction
  - 12 degrees with High Distinction
  - 19 degrees with Distinction
- based on academic record only
  - 59 degrees with High Distinction
  - 40 degrees with Distinction

### **Scholarships**

For the past several years the college combined its process with the UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. Over 750 students completed the A&S portion of the application. The committee considered just under 300 students for awards from approximately 35 scholarship funds controlled by the college. Award recipients have not been selected yet. This will be done once fund balance information is received. The college will make one nomination for the Kate Field Grant-in-aid and two nominations for the Donald Walters Miller Scholarship.

NOTE: The Dean's Office annually reviews applications for the Dean's Experiential Learning Scholarships. The college has four funds these awards are made from. This year there were 29 applicants; there were funds to support 18 applicants with their experiential learning plans

### **Grade Appeal**

To date there has been no grade appeals elevated to the college for this academic year. The committee did receive an appeal late in the spring of 2016 after submitting its report to the faculty. After review, the committee voted not to hear the appeal.

**2016-2017 Committee Members:** Timothy Schaffert (English), Jolene Smyth (Sociology) – fall, Christina Falci (Sociology) Spring semester replacement, Mikil Foss (Mathematics) 1 year replacement, Patrick Jones (Ethnic Studies/History), Karrie Weber (Biological Sciences/Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), Azar Mohammad Abadi (Graduate Student Representative), Tara Brookhouser (Student Advisory Board Representative), John Lane (Student Advisory Board Representative), Amy Beyer (non-voting, Advising Center), Associate Dean June Griffin

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE & ADVISING COMMITTEE**

The committee reviewed 1 ACE proposal; 10 new course with ACE proposals; 24 new course proposals; 129 change in course proposals; 24 course deletion proposals; 15 proposals for various majors and minors; one removal of major.

The Committee forwarded to the faculty the following recommendations:

- to approve the removal of the major in Great Plains Studies
- to approve changes to the Restrictions list in the bulletin.

The Committee approved non-substantive changes majors and minors. The following changes went directly to the bulletin editor.

- Biochemistry major
- Classics & Religious Studies major and minor
- Communication Studies major and minor
- Computer Science major
- English major
- Environmental Studies major
- Ethnic Studies major and minor
- Geography major
- Global Studies major
- Informatics minor
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Sexuality Studies minor
- Microbiology major
- German minor
- Plant Biology major
- Women's & Gender Studies major and minor

The Committee has started an in-depth review of the Course Exclusions and Restrictions Policies of the college.

Finally, the committee made nominations for vacancies on the College Curriculum Committee for the 2016-2017 AY

The chair for the 2017-2018 academic year will be decided at the next committee meeting.

**2016-2017 Committee Members:** Professors Roland Vegso (chair, English), Dona-Gene Barton (Political Science), Marilyn Stains (Chemistry), Reina Hayaki (Philosophy), Gwendolyn Bachman (Biological Sciences); Claire Adams and Ashley Anderson (Student Advisory Board Representatives); Doug Pellatz (A&S Advising Center); Michael Dodd (University Curriculum Committee-A&S Representative); Christina Fielder (Director, A&S Advising Center); and Associate Dean June Griffin (Executive Secretary).

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee reviewed Biennial Undergraduate Program Assessment reports (submitted in December 2016). Reports for each major were submitted using Tk20, new assessment software purchased by the University for this purpose. Feedback to departments was provided by the Committee, also via Tk20.

**2016-2017 Committee Members:** Professors Jason Kautz (Chemistry), Daniel Leger (Psychology), Brian Couch (Biological Sciences), Brandon Bosch (Political Science/Sociology) and Associate Dean Diana Pilson.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CASRAC)**

The Research Advisory Committee is chaired by the Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships. The committee meets twice a year, and on an as-needed basis, to advise the college in matters pertaining to research and scholarship.

The committee reviews applications for three awards:

First, the International Travel Award for Scholarly Presentations which awards up to \$1,500 to use for international travel to participate in events such as research presentations, plenary presentations, and keynote speeches at recognized international meetings. 32 international travel awards were granted in fiscal year 2015 – 2016. Four awards were granted in Fall 2016 and the committee is currently reviewing 22 applications submitted for the spring 2017 cycle.

Second, the ENHANCE CAS award which awards up to \$5,000 to faculty in the humanities and social sciences for research, scholarship, and creative activities. 19 ENHANCE awards were granted in fiscal year 2015 – 2016. Six awards were granted in Fall 2016 and the committee is currently reviewing six applications submitted for the spring 2017 cycle.

Third, the International Research Collaborations Award which awards up to \$10,000 to facilitate work with colleagues at foreign partner research institutions in ways that promise to be sustainable beyond any one project, opening the door for future collaborations including external domestic and foreign grants and fellowships. 11 awards were granted in fiscal year 2015 – 2016 and the committee is currently reviewing 10 applications submitted for the current fiscal year.

In addition to reviewing award applications, the committee worked with the Dean's office to analyze and summarize results from two internal faculty surveys. The first survey was designed to assess faculty engagement in international collaborators and the second to assess faculty engagement in partnerships with non-academic entities external to the university. All this work is helping to fuel new initiatives in the College, which are designed to promote and enhance the College's scholarly outreach.

Committee members are appointed by the Associate Dean for Research and Global Engagement and serve one year terms. Thank you Deb Brown, Pete Capuano, Sarah Gervais, Yvonne Lai, Isabel Velazquez and Sergio Wals for

serving for a second year on the committee. Thank you to Berthe Choueiry, Dawne Curry, John Hibbing, Sabrina Russo, Jordan Soliz and Adrian Wisnicki for serving in the current academic year.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENDOWED/COLLEGE PROFESSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Committee reviewed and recommended 7 renewal applications for College professorships and 8 renewals for University Professorships to the Dean. The Committee reviewed and made recommendations on 12 nominations for College and University professorships to the Dean.

**2016-2017 Committee Members:** Professors Jay Storz (Biological Sciences), Jordan Stump (Modern Languages & Literatures), Rebecca Lai (Chemistry), Laura White (English), Kimberly Tyler (Sociology), Associate Dean Elizabeth Theiss-Morse

#### **Item IV. Recommendation from the College Curriculum & Advising Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Academic Programs and Policies, Course Restrictions in the college portion of the Undergraduate Bulletin.**

##### **Bullet #1**

###### **Current restriction:**

Maximum 12 hours of religion courses that advocate the doctrine or belief of a particular faith. This 12-hour limit does not apply to religious studies courses whose method and approach conforms to the standards of critical scholarship in the academic study of the humanities and social sciences.

###### **Proposed revisions:**

No credit is given for courses advocating the belief, thought, or practice of a particular faith or religion.

###### **Justification:**

- None of our peers in the B1G 10 Academic Alliance allow credit for courses that advocate for a religious belief or particular faith.
- This exclusion recognizes a difference in intellectual focus between the courses offered by the College of Arts and Sciences and courses that view a discipline, topic, or question from the vantage point of a single faith or religion. Exclusions will be determined on the basis of course descriptions and other course materials provided by the student seeking transfer credit for the course.

##### **Bullet #4**

###### **Current restriction:**

Maximum 30 hours of clinical courses.

**Proposed:** Remove restriction

###### **Justification:**

Identifying courses as clinical is no longer necessary because these courses are usually considered vocational or skill-based and are subject to restrictions at lower thresholds. Thus, this restriction is obsolete and no longer functional.