

Spring CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes (17 April 2019)

3:31 pm: The meeting was called to order by Dean Beth Theiss-Morse

1. Opening Comments (Agenda Item I) (3:32 pm) (by Theiss-Morse)

Theiss-Morse noted that these were her last opening comments as Interim Dean. It has been a great experience and she's enjoyed doing what she can for the College.

An item of active interest to the college is the Service Delivery Initiative. It will create business cooperatives that will serve multiple units more efficiently. Theiss-Morse encouraged faculty to provide their input on the initiative.

Another item of high interest to the college is the continued discussions about moving the Computer Science and Engineering Department in one college, namely the College of Engineering. Theiss-Morse wants to make it clear that she has argued strongly against the move and wants to keep the department in both colleges.

2. Call the meeting to order (3:42 pm) (by Theiss-Morse)

Theiss-Morse noted that because there was not a quorum, she could not call the meeting to order. Kirk Dombrowski, as acting Parliamentarian, reported that the Bylaws say that if there is an insufficient quorum within 10 minutes after starting the meeting, the meeting can be reconvened with only 10 members present. The Dean then reconvened the meeting.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Fall Faculty Meeting (13 December 2018) (Agenda Item II) (by Theiss-Morse)

Robert Belli (Psyc) requested that his comments about Item 5 (Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Committee) be clarified to note that "The Faculty Senate already has an Academic Rights and Responsibilities committee." The Dean requested that her name be spelled correctly every time. With those alterations, it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

4. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees (Agenda Item III) (by Theiss-Morse)

June Griffin (Assoc Dean) noted that the number of theses has increased considerably in response to increased awareness

Jody Redepenning (Chem) was granted his request to discuss the Service Delivery Initiative mentioned by the Dean in her opening remarks. He wondered whether there is a role for the Executive Comm to address this issue. Theiss-Morse stated that the Executive Committee is basically finished with its duties for the academic year. James Volkmer and Jeff Bassford have said there will be an opportunity to get input from faculty.

5. Recommendation from the Dean to approve the proposed changes regarding the Committee on Student Academic Distinction, Awards and Appeals. (Bylaws of the Faculty, Article IX, Section 1, and Policy Statement for Grading Appeals, Article III, Section A. (Agenda Item IV)

June Griffin (Assoc Dean) noted that this involves a change to Bylaws and Policy. It arises because the Appeals Committee realized they had eight members but worried about possible tie votes. They propose adding the Associate Dean to the membership. There was no discussion. This is the first reading. It will be brought forward for a vote at the next CAS faculty meeting.

6. Recommendation from the Dean to amend the Bylaws of the Faculty, Article V, Section 1, to add Professors of Practice as eligible to serve on the College Executive Committee (Agenda Item V)

This item was discussed at our last meeting and the changes have been made to identify eligible faculty as “tenure-line faculty or professors of practice with greater than 0.5 FTE.”

There was no further discussion. The vote in favor was 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

7. Recommendation from the Dean to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty to add the Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Committee as a standing committee (Agenda Item VI)

This item was discussed at our last meeting and will create an important resource for the college.

Marco Abel (English) noted that this committee will not compete with other bodies but will provide the Dean with advice.

Julia Schleck (English) noted that the fact-finding nature of this committee means that it will gather facts to provide the Dean with a neutral statement of the case.

Robert Belli (Psych) proposed clarifying the language in Item VI, Support 2, second paragraph to read “...outside the college and with the Faculty Senate.”

Accepting that change as a friendly amendment, the vote in favor was 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

8. Recommendation from Dean to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty to add the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) Committee as a standing committee (Agenda Item VII)

This item was discussed at our last meeting.

Chad Brassil (BioSci) said that the number of undergraduate members was changed from “one” to “one to two” in case there was a need to empower the voice of a sole undergraduate.

The vote in favor was 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

9. Recommendation from the College Curriculum & Advising Committee to approve the proposed changes to college distribution requirements (Agenda Item VIII) (by Reina Hayaki) CDR F Additional Breadth is proposed to be replaced by CDR F Human Diversity in U.S. Communities

Brassil (BioSci) was in favor of the change because the new CDR in Human Diversity causes the Additional Breadth to be redundant.

The vote in favor was 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

10. Recommendation from the College Curriculum & Advising Committee to approve the proposed catalog changes regarding Dual Degrees in the college (Agenda Item IX) (by Reina Hayaki)

Hayaki (Phil) noted that the proposal was made because the number of credits required for dual matriculation students was deemed to be high

Griffin (Assoc Dean) clarified that dual matriculation refers to students earning a BA and BS, which have different sets of specific requirements.

Christina Fielder (CAS Advising) provided the example of someone earning a Chemistry BA and a Biochemistry BS. There are few additional courses in either of those programs that they could take to fill in the additional course requirements.

The vote in favor was 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

11. Recommendation from the College Curriculum & Advising Committee to approve the proposed changes to the major in Psychology (Agenda Item X) (by Reina Hayaki)

Mark Griep (Chem) asked what is special about the neuroscience option. For instance, don't psychology students already take LIFE 120?

Scott Stoltenberg (Psyc) responded that the specific set of course offerings defines the neuroscience option and that most psychology students do not already take LIFE 120.

The vote in favor was 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

12. Opportunity to ask questions of the Dean.

Belli asked to hear more of her arguments about the move of the Computer Science and Engineering department. Theiss-Morse said that her arguments against the move have several levels. At the broadest level, CAS has a breadth of areas in which we want our students to be competent. There are also some students (likely to be women and underrepresented minorities) who would be less likely to major in computer science if it were part of the Engineering College.

Schleck wanted to know the arguments in favor of the move. Theiss-Morse said the argument has been that we need to increase the number of majors in this area to meet the demand for tech workers in the state and this can be better done in one college.

Another argument is that the two-college system is confusing to students and faculty.

Redepenning asked how the CSE faculty feel about the move. Theiss-Morse replied that the CSE faculty voted overwhelmingly against the move.

Belli noted that the Executive Comm has discussed the issue and that they will meet with the CSE faculty to discuss it further. Belli was at the recent Board of Regents meeting at which there was a discussion about the need to change the structure to keep in step with UNO and UNK.

Theiss-Morse said there must be an opportunity for CAS students to develop important computational and analytical skills within the College.

Redepenning proposed that we thank Theiss-Morse for her service as Interim Dean.

Dawn Braithwaite (Comm Studies) moved the following: Whereas Beth Theiss-Morse served the college as interim dean with distinction and heart, the faculty of the college express their sincere appreciation.

The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous and loud acclamation.

The meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Mark Griep (Chem)