

**MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
FACULTY MEETING (Version 2)**

Thursday, 21 April 2011, 3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union

Approval of Minutes and Opening Remarks

Dean Manderscheid opened the meeting at 3:47 p.m. The minutes of the Fall Faculty Meeting on 9 December 2010 were then approved without change or discussion. The Dean did not have any opening remarks other than to thank the faculty in attendance for coming and to express the hope that Spring-like weather would arrive soon.

Annual Reports of the Various College Committees

There were no questions by the faculty concerning the annual reports of the following College Committees: the Executive Committee, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the Student Academic Distinction, Awards, and Appeals Committee, the Curriculum and Advising Committee, the Faculty Instructional Development Committee, the Assessment Committee, and the Endowed/College Professorships Committee.

Curriculum Committee Recommendations

Thomas Lynch (English) and **Sunil Narumalani** (Associate Dean for Academic Programs) presented the recommendations.

- The changes to the *Asian Studies Minor* requirements were to eliminate Plan B (requiring only 12 credit hours) and to retain Plan A (requiring 18 credit hours) in order to bring the Asian Studies Minor in line with other minors. The changes passed without discussion.
- With regard to changes in the *Biochemistry Major* requirements, which also passed, **Bill Watts** (Assistant Dean for Advising Services) said the aim was to have long-standing Department policies explicitly stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.
- The major changes to the *Environmental Studies Major* were the addition of a political science track and some changes to the sociology track. All were approved.
- Finally, the changes to the *Physics Major* involved the removal of an Astronomy Track owing to the retirement of all tenured astronomy faculty in the department. This was approved.

Final Agenda Item: Opportunity to Ask Questions of the Dean

- **Anthony Starace** (Physics and Astronomy) asked how many faculty in the College accepted UNL's *Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP)*. Dean Manderscheid answered that there were 22, but that the deadline for making a final decision had not yet passed. The Dean was then asked what relation these VSIP retirements had to the 14 faculty positions the University had to cut in the next round of budget cuts. The Dean

indicated that that was still unclear. **Lloyd Ambrosius** (History) noted that if one were to hire replacements for the VSIP faculty at the assistant professor level, there might not be any reduction in the number of faculty. The Dean agreed, but indicated that not all replacement hires will be at the assistant professor level.

- **Susan Belasco** (English) asked about the *proposed demolition of University Terrace and the associated move of International Affairs to the top floor of Seaton Hall, displacing or squeezing the College's interdisciplinary programs currently located there: Ethnic Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and International Studies*. **Amelia Montes** (English and Director, Ethnic Studies) asserted that there was no consultation prior to the recommendation and that the proposal would be an "erasure" of these interdisciplinary programs. **Joy Castro** (English, Ethnic Studies) noted that with the attendant loss of space on the top floor of Seaton Hall, key faculty would have to move back to their home departments, greatly diminishing valuable interactions with colleagues. **Greg Snow** (Associate Dean for Research) said that he was informed of the proposal for Seaton Hall only days earlier by **Bill Nunez** (Director, Institutional Research and Planning). He argued for some other physical location for the affected programs, but did not win that argument. He said the administration knew there would be problems, but felt there was no good alternative. Snow then informed the directors of the affected programs. **Miguel Carranza** (Sociology, Ethnic Studies) noted that four affected faculty have no other offices to move to. He recounted how in the past Ethnic Studies had endured several prior moves: from Burnett, from Lyman, and from University Terrace. **Montes** stated that Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies require a place to hold frequent impromptu meetings. **Belasco** said that reserving rooms in the Nebraska Union requires payment of a fee, which is difficult for the small budgets of the affected programs to pay. **Joy Richie** (English) noted that when she came to UNL four years earlier, she was quite impressed with the program facilities in Seaton Hall and that visitors to UNL have been similarly impressed. **Thomas Lynch** (English) said the proposal for Seaton Hall was counterproductive of UNL's recruitment efforts. **Julia Schleck** (English) said the Women's and Gender Studies program and the Ethnic Studies programs need a community of faculty in one physical location. **Margaret Jacobs** (History) noted that those programs could physically consolidate somewhat, but that they absolutely require a conference room. **Manderscheid** noted that the faculty side of the argument has not yet been heard. He said that as far as he is aware, the motivation for demolishing the energy-inefficient University Terrace building is the expectation of saving \$25K/year in utility bills and also that there were issues with mold in the building. [*Note added: As of the date below, the proposal to demolish University Terrace and to move the affected programs is apparently on hold.*]

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony F. Starace, *Faculty Secretary, 3 October 2011*