

**MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
FACULTY MEETING v.2**

Thursday, 26 April 2012, 3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union

Items I and II. Opening Remarks and Approval of Minutes of the Fall Faculty Meeting

Dean Manderscheid opened the meeting at 3:45 p.m. and stated that he was pleased to see so many faculty attending. Instead of giving a presentation he would respond to faculty questions at the end of the meeting. The minutes of the Fall Faculty Meeting on 8 December 2011 were then approved without change or discussion [*Sidnie Crawford (Classics and Religious Studies) motioned to approve; seconded by David Watkins (Geosciences)*].

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 changes to the Biological Science Major: approved without discussion.

Item V. Proposed changes to the Classics and Religious Studies Major and Minor: approved without discussion.

Item VI. Proposed new major in Religious Studies: **Dean Manderscheid** asked whether the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education guidelines for the minimum number of students in the new major would be met. **Stephen Burnett** (Classics and Religious Studies) replied that currently there are 7 majors in Religious Studies and 10-15 in Classics. The proposal was approved.

Item VII. Proposed title change for the Chicano Studies Minor: The proposed new title (U.S. Latina/Latino Studies) was approved without discussion.

Item VIII. Proposed title change for the Judaic Studies Minor: The proposed new title (Jewish Studies) was approved without discussion.

Item IX. Proposed changes to the Philosophy Major and Minor: approved without discussion.

Item X. Proposed changes to the College Distribution Requirements (CDRs): **Associate Dean Deborah Minter** (English) explained that the rationale of the proposed changes is to have rough equality of requirements in the different areas represented in the College. A new look at the CDRs was necessary owing to the Chancellor's request that Colleges reduce the number of credit hours for students to graduate to 120 credit hours. To those who expressed concern over the pace of change, **Minter** said the Committee felt that the data would not change in the future and so the decision could be made now. The current College breadth requirement is felt to be restrictive for some students owing to the breadth requirements of some College departments. **Mark Griep**

(Chemistry) agreed, noting the large disparity between requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degree programs in Chemistry. **Minter** noted that one motivation of the Committee in proposing fewer CDRs was to preserve the number of students who wish to have double majors. **Glenn Ledder** (Mathematics) gave the example of a student majoring in Biological Science: that department requires the student to take 70 credit hours of courses, the ACE requirements would add 21 credit hours, and the CDRs would add another 18 credit hours. If the Committee's proposal passes, then such a student would still be able to have 16 credit hours free to take electives. **Sidnie Crawford** (Classics and Religious Studies) said the Committee discussed the various B.A. and B.S. programs and felt that both should have the same CDRs.

Glenn Ledder (Mathematics) noted that UNL's ACE requirements also ensure a breadth of studies. **Kwakiutl Dreher** (English) said that there is a need to expose students to other cultures. **Patrick Jones** (History) said he is in favor of CDRs since the ACE requirements are insufficient. Another faculty member said the proposed changes to the CDRs "diminish" the humanities from 6 credits to 3 credits. **Ledder** noted that the ACE requirements must be considered as well as the CDRs.

Robert Brooke (English) suggested amending the wording of the proposed changes to ensure that breadth comes from courses outside the student's major. **Ledder** said he was against such a motion since students would then have 3 fewer credits for electives. **Dan Hoyt** (Sociology) recommended voting against the proposed amendment. **Basuli Deb** (English) noted that she has seen the "horrors" of highly specialized programs of study. **Mark Awakuni-Swetland** (Anthropology) recommended voting for the proposed amendment as a means to promote a broad education. **Associate Dean Deborah Minter** (English) expressed concern about ancillary requirements for degrees, which Departments would have to remove (so that students could replace those with electives if the amendment passes). **Jim Lewis** (Mathematics) noted that of 81 students in mathematics, 40 had double majors and 10 had triple majors. He expressed concern that the proposed amendment would prevent students from having double or triple majors. **Asst. Dean Bill Watts** wondered how the proposed amendment would affect interdisciplinary majors. *A vote on the proposed amendment was held: 19 For, 45 Against, 1 Abstention. So the amendment failed.*

A vote on the Curriculum Committee proposal was then held: 41 For, 24 Against. The proposal passed. A general discussion on current UNL, ACE, and College Distribution requirements ensued. **Susan Belasco** (English) stated that ACE has had some negative consequences; namely, students are writing less well. English is now in competition with History for attracting students. She advocates investigating data on student programs to see what consequences ACE has had. **Martha McCollough** (Anthropology) stated that changes in student programs will be monitored, but expressed the opinion that the College will produce better programs for students if students have more freedom of choice. **Belasco** responded that she takes seriously Deb's comment that some student programs are too specialized. **Glenn Ledder** (Mathematics) said we ought to find out if undergraduate writing has become worse since we adopted ACE. **Amelia Montez** (English, Ethnic Studies) said that it is important that students learn to think critically about issues and that we are all connected. Even science is global. **Dean Manderscheid** then thanked the Curriculum Committee for its good work. He noted that projected enrollment increases are highest in Arts and Sciences, as fewer students are going into General Studies. He said the College will keep close tabs on this trend.

Item IX. Opportunity to Ask Questions of the Dean

Sidnie Crawford (Classics and Religious Studies) expressed concern about the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) retirements since she understood that some of the money

generated would be used to address “structural deficits” in some colleges. She asked what that meant. **Dean Manderscheid** answered that that is a question for Sr. VCAA Ellen Weissinger. He noted that the College forwarded 7 Strategic Priority Initiative (SPI) proposals [for hiring new faculty using money freed up by the VSIP retirements] to Academic Affairs, but that these requests exceeded the money available. **Anthony Starace** (Physics and Astronomy) asked whether or not it is still the intention to use the positions and the monies freed up by the VSIP retirements to meet the Chancellor’s goals for UNL over the next 6 years? **Manderscheid** answered that that was still the intention, but that the Chancellor has many goals. **Susan Belasco** (English) asked whether there would be funding for recruitment initiatives. **Asst. Dean Bill Watts** said that the College’s **Director of Recruitment, Jodi Holt**, has been developing a recruitment plan for the College. Admissions has hired dedicated staff to work with Jody. Thus, the College is now better able to target recruitment of particular students. **Manderscheid** added that there is a second part to that question. Namely, “How do we get those students already on campus who are interested in departments in the College to transfer to A&S?” **Starace** noted that the Physics Department’s introductory courses have always attracted a few Engineering students annually to major in physics. **Associate Dean Gregory Snow** (Physics and Astronomy) noted that it is important to have the best professors teach introductory courses. **Robert Gorman** (Classics and Religious Studies) said he would like to see data on which students complete three courses in his Department so that he could contact them.

The faculty meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony F. Starace (*Physics and Astronomy*)
Faculty Secretary

27 November 2012