CLAS Faculty Council Minutes  
Tuesday, 2 November 2010  
150 Pugh Hall

Members present: Susan Hegeman, Brent Henderson, Kevin Ingersent, Ellen Martin, John Palmer, Rick Stepp, Brigitte Weltman-Aron, Clive Wynne, Rick Yost  
Members absent: Howard Louthan, Paul Robinson, Richard Scher  
Ex-officio members present: David Foster, Jed Keesling  
Student representative absent: LaRae Scantling

1. Rick Yost called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. The minutes of the 13 October 2010 meeting were unanimously approved with one amendment.

3. John Palmer presented an update on the General Education Humanities course:
   - The Humanities General Education Task Force charged by the Office of the Provost continues to develop a course required of all UF freshman to provide them with a common educational experience and encourage critical thinking about the role of values in life.
   - The course entitled “What is the Good Life?” is designed around common readings from across the humanities, supplementary readings selected by individual instructors, online enhancement materials, and coordinated events (performances, exhibitions, and keynote lectures).
   - The course debuted as IDS 3931 for roughly 25 Honors students in Spring 2010. It is now being offered as IDS 2935 with three parallel lecture classes in Fall 2010 and the same scheduled for Spring 2011.
   - The Task Force intends that the course will be scaled up to teach approximately 3400 students per semester beginning in Fall 2012.

   The Council discussed possible impacts of the course on CLAS and its member units.

4. The Council briefly turned to consideration of the 2010 NRC Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs.

5. At 9:30 a.m., Dean Paul D’Anieri joined the meeting and the discussion returned to the General Education Humanities course. The Dean stated his view that the course is of potential benefit to CLAS, both through additional revenue for teaching the course, and as a draw for students who would not otherwise consider taking other humanities courses. The proposal to establish this course as a requirement for all UF freshmen and the current initiative to introduce block tuition are examples of developments that require the College to reassess how best to achieve its teaching goals.

   The discussion then switched back to the NRC assessment. The Dean indicated that he regards the assessment as one input that must be considered when the College allocates resources, and that individual departments and programs can usefully study the assessment to learn how they stand relative to corresponding units at peer institutions. One Council member noted that the 2010 NRC assessment was based on data for years through 2006, and expressed concern about the likely impact of CLAS budget cuts and faculty attrition since 2006 on the quantitative measures of program quality employed by the NRC.

6. The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Submitted by Kevin Ingersent.