CLAS Faculty Council Meeting – February 13, 2014
160 Pugh Hall

Presiding: Jon Martin. Attending: Monica Ardelt, Sixue Chen, Kenneth Kidd, Gillian Lord, Victoria Pagán, Mario Poceski, Ben Smith, Rick Yost, and Paul D’Anieri

Meeting called to order at 9:31.

1. Kenneth was appointed note taker; minutes from the January 16, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Open Access Policy. Jon reported that exchanges with Dean Russell of the Libraries clarified that Council was not being asked to vote on the existing OA policy drafts; rather, feedback on the issue more broadly is being sought for consideration by the Faculty Senate. The Council expressed support for OA in principle, particularly to the degree that it safeguards authors’ rights while making scholarship more accessible. Jon will draft a statement reflecting the Council’s position, including a preference for the “opt in” model for an initial period of several years; the recommendation of an embargo option aligned with the embargo policies of journals; and the recommendation that the university explore membership in research/publishing consortiums.

3. a) Chair Evaluations. Gillian reported that the chair and director evaluation form is completed, after useful feedback from all parties. The form includes an explanatory preamble, which the Dean has approved.

b) Peer Teaching Evaluations. Ben, who compiled feedback from committee members on the topic of peer teaching review (with the aim of developing a “best practices” statement), reported that said feedback was pretty polarized on whether we should do it and how it should be handled (mandatory, voluntary, etc.). A productive discussion ensued about the advantages of peer review for personnel evaluation (esp. T&P review), and in light of ongoing issues with the online student evaluation system. Based on this discussion, Ben proposed to draft a statement about best practices in peer teaching review, one emphasizing the advantages of such for faculty and institution alike.

4. Economics Department Proposed Relocation from CBA to CLAS. Paul gave a quick recap of what happened in 2010-2011 when this move was first proposed, and explained what had changed, including a shift in the thinking of the Economics faculty as well as Provost-level assurance of support. While the BOT can arrange such a change directly, the expectation is that the Economics faculty will vote, and if the Deans of CBA and CLAS approve, along with the Provost and our Council, it will happen. Faculty Council is being asked to evaluate the relocation, and formally vote as a recommendation from the CLAS faculty to the Dean when the time comes. Paul stressed the advantages of having Economics in CLAS, and clarified that such a move would depend upon resources external to the College and would not come at the expense of any units currently in CLAS. The expectation is that Economics would add faculty members, funded by the Provost, and would rebuild its PhD program. There was some discussion of salary compression
and different ways of thinking about salary in relation to market forces and in the context of “UF Rising.” Ben asked if Council could see a draft of the agreement, once it’s ready; Paul agreed.

5. **College Strategic Plan.** Paul clarified that the current draft of the Strategic Plan is the result of input from many groups, and stressed that the Plan has multiple stakeholders. Council members suggested that improvement of faculty morale should be highlighted as an important goal, as well as the identification of future opportunities (hiring, program building, etc.). There was some discussion of the Preeminence hiring initiative, which some Council members see as counterproductive in terms of faculty morale.

6. **Summer Teaching.** It was brought to Council’s attention that the allocation of summer courses has in some units privileged TAs over faculty members because the former are cheaper to employ; other frustrations with the handling of summer budgets by the College were discussed. This, too, is a faculty morale issue, it was felt. The Council may request from the College information about the allocation and management of summer courses.

Meeting was adjourned slightly after 11 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth