CLAS Faculty Council Minutes
Thursday, January 15th, 2009, 10.40 a.m., 160 Pugh Hall

**Elected members present:** Nora Alter, Susan deFrance, Jean Larson, John Leavey, Ronald Randles, Sam Stafford, Donald Stehouwer, Ann Wehmeyer, John Yelton, Barbara Zsembik

**Ex-officio members present:** Chris Snodgrass, David Pharies

**Student member present:** Amber Van Matre

**Elected members absent:** Carol Murphy

**Student member absent:** Kristin Tennyson

**The Dean:** Paul D’Anieri, **Associate Dean:** Jim Mueller

Dean D’Anieri informed us that President Machen would be speaking at the faculty senate later in the day. In recent meetings with the deans, the president has promised more transparency in the budget process than last year.

The dean told us that some faculty searches funded from differential tuition funds are progressing, but he will wait for further information before authorizing offers. Unfortunately, it will not be known for some time whether the legislature will give permission to use these funds to offset budget cuts.

The dean was asked about his vision for the future of the College. He told us that he believes that many people in our country should know more about the rest of the world. At UF, it is CLAS who are the “International College,” and this is a role we should embrace. His second observation was that there is a society-wide absence of scholarly skepticism, and that he believes in promoting studies of “the mind.” This involves a whole gamut of disciplines ranging from bio-chemistry to psychology all of which are taught in CLAS.

The dean also promised to look beyond the raw numbers when evaluating programs. For example, a graduate program producing a small number of PhD’s may look inefficient. If, some years later, all these graduates are well-placed, the success of the program will be seen in a different light.

The dean left at 12.05 p.m.

The meeting closed at 12.40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Yelton, Associate Chair.