CLAS Faculty Council
Minutes
Monday, October 8, 2007, 4:05 p.m.
219 Dauer

Elected members present: Nora Alter, Susan DeFrance, Jean Larson, John Leavey, Carol Murphy, Ronald Randles, Samuel Stafford, Donald Stehouwer, Kenneth Wagener, Ann Wehmeyer, Barbara Zsembik
Ex-officio members present: Alan Dorsey, Chris Snodgrass
Guests: Ken Sassaman
Elected members absent: John Yelton
Student members absent: no student members have been selected

John Leavey called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The minutes of September 13 and of September 24 were approved as amended. John Leavey reviewed dates on which we will be able to meet in 219 Dauer Hall, which is preferable to the CLAS Dean’s conference room.

Ken Sassaman, representing Chris Sapienza, briefly described the context in which the vision statement of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division was developed. He gave a few highlights from the report, including the fact that around half the majors in CLAS are in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. The question of whether or not it is a good idea for the college to become a college of three divisions for more than electoral purposes was raised.

Alan Dorsey of the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Division talked about both the one page vision statement circulated and the two page transition document for the Department of Physics. He now has vision documents from all of them except Astronomy. The group plans to condense them into a division wide document. The suggestion was made to put the needs of the departments first.

Alan Dorsey said a goal of the Finance Committee is a two page summary of the college’s financial position. John Leavey requested that Alan Dorsey cc us with his documents.

Ann Wehmeyer, representing David Hackett of the Humanities Division, outlined a process starting last January when Glover came on board as interim dean in which the APR was moved up to March 1, so in February, chairs were consulting with faculty members about the future of the departments under various growth scenarios, which was a foundation for the vision statements, the CLAS narrative for the annual program review and the current transition documents under development. The humanities departments are in the process of developing bulleted lists to be used to develop a transition statement for the Humanities Division. There was concern that in some departments faculty input was not being included in the process, and it was suggested that faculty councils or advisory groups in those departments be alerted, if they exist.

Chris Snodgrass gave a brief report on his understanding of the action of the legislature in the current special session, saying that legislators understood the budget enacted in the regular session as having a 8.8% real increase over last year, so they see the cuts this fall coupled with the proposed 5% tuition increase as a reduction in the real increase.

The October 11 agenda was reviewed and will include discussion of transition documents for the Dean Search and of the Humanities and Social Sciences Endowment.

The meeting closed at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Larson, Associate Chair