CLAS Faculty Council Minutes
Thursday, October 11, 2007, 9:35 a.m.
CLAS Dean’s conference room

Elected members present: Nora Alter, Susan DeFrance, Jean Larson, John Leavey, Carol Murphy, Samuel Stafford, Donald Stehouwer, Kenneth Wagener, John Yelton, Barbara Zsembik
Ex-officio members present: Alan Dorsey, Chris Snodgrass
The Dean, his staff, guests: Joe Glover, Sheila Dickinson, Jim Mueller, Chuck Frazier
Elected members absent: Ronald Randles, Ann Wehmeyer,
Student members absent: no student members have been selected

Leavey opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Glover declined to make an opening report.

We discussed transition and other documents for the Dean Search, noting we must be timely if we want to be heard, since the Dean Search Committee is setting the timetable. Glover is developing a fact sheet about CLAS modeled on UF College of Engineering and University of Washington examples; David Richardson is producing a document on CLAS research (we asked for copies of it).

Suggestions for increasing faculty buy in to the Dean Search included having chairs of departments encourage their faculty to attend meetings with the Dean Search committee, having public forums for each candidate, having candidates meet with the Faculty Council. Another suggestion was that the Faculty Council make available a feedback form like the one Glover in the Dean of the Libraries Search. Glover agreed to provide a copy to us; he briefly described the statistical analysis done and noted that all the forms were provided to the president. The question was raised as to whether all 3-5 finalists would be sent to the Provost, with or without the Search Committee endorsement.

There was a discussion of resources provided to the college, including four faculty positions based on spring legislative funding and the potential for more faculty and advising positions, the local administration of CLAS enrollment management funds, the promises by Machen at the convocation, including the inclusion in the current capital campaign of fundraising for a $30 million endowment for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The college goal in the capital campaign is $60 million, and it is not clear what the relationship exists between these two numbers or how the fundraising for the endowment is to be carried out. Glover commenting that decisions of the use of with funds to be raised in the current capital campaign may depend on donors but otherwise will be made by the incoming Dean. There is some expectation that when the President is negotiating with the Dean candidates that he may offer more. Glover remarked that Machen has put the Chemical Biology Building at the top of the UF PECO request list, which, if funded by the legislature, will likely lead to another lost parking lot.

No formal assessment of the faculty necessary to sustain current programs has been made. Given that the university is underfunded relative to its peers, and expects to be for the near future, Glover sees the need for the college to reconceptualize itself through hard discussions between the new Dean and the faculty. He is not making fundamental changes in the interim.

Glover fielded questions on (1) whether scholarship enhancements for the Humanities were distributed, (2) surprises based on the recent change in the Tenure and Promotion Guidelines, (3) the market equity program, (4) the SPP program. It was pointed out that the SPP program is continuing even though the legislature did not fund a salary raise for faculty. Glover said he would get us statistics on the percentage funded in the SPP program over several years, since there is a perception that some people deserving of it are not getting it. The President, who makes the final decision on tenure and promotion rather than the APB, is now the person who alerts candidates of the opportunity to withdraw prior to a case being turned down, so the conventional wisdom that such alerts will arrive before the end of May is no longer valid. Concerns were raised that the APB is not as assertive in requesting answers to questions about the files now that they no longer send out the alert. Joe will follow up on these concerns.

The meeting closed at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Larson, Associate Chair