CLAS Faculty Council Minutes
Thursday, November 1, 2007, 9:35 a.m.
CLAS Dean’s Conference Room

Elected members present: Nora Alter, Susan DeFrance, Jean Larson, John Leavey, Ronald Randles, Donald Stehouwer, John Yelton, Kenneth Wagener, Ann Wehmeyer, Barbara Zsembik

Ex-officio members present: Chuck Frazier for Alan Dorsey, Chris Snodgrass

The Dean, his staff, guests: Joe Glover, Jim Mueller, Jack Sabin

Elected members absent: Carol Murphy, Samuel Stafford

Student members absent: no student members have been selected

Leavey opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Dean Glover gave an update on the state of the college. The Finance Committee is considering whether or not to release more of the OE money. Glover is going through individual department budgets, found some had excess or unused funding, several were in the low end of respectable funding, and a few were beneath respectable.

Khargonekar has specified the documents he wants from CLAS for the Dean search and the college office is coordinating the collection of the brief documents from all departments and major centers. (Glover will copy the Faculty Council when he sends the documents to Khargonekar.)

Glover spoke briefly about graduate education, which he continues to see as a high priority. He said that student credit hours (SCH) are being tracked, and CLAS was on target for fall, but in the summer the college made only 80% of the target in grad 1 and grad 2 SCHs. It would be desirable to shift resources from lower division, where we have excess capacity, to graduate SCHs in order to increase dollars flowing into UF. Graduate assistantships are funded by OPS, the OPS budget is expected to be flat for next year, so a maintenance of our graduate student population is the best we can expect. In funding for graduate students, many of our peers offer better health benefits, and some of our stipends are very low. The provost is shifting some money from National Merit Scholarships to Alumni Fellowships, and there are proposed changes to the use of Alumni Fellowships. Glover opposed the suggestion of block grants, since without constraints, departments can be expected to increase stipends and probably shrink their graduate programs, and the resulting fewer graduate SCHs would cost UF many dollars. There will be a conversation about this topic at an upcoming Deans breakfast. Glover pointed out that paying master’s students (those without tuition waivers) are good for the university. He said that in January he will need to tell graduate coordinators what funding they can expect for recruiting purposes.

There was a discussion of the summer budget. Last summer the provost experimented with direct control with a goal of maximizing SCHs per dollar.

The 100 million dollars of recurring money in the CLAS budget is split roughly 80-85% in salary for faculty and staff (not OPS), 3-4% for operating expense (OE) and the remainder for OPS, which is mostly funding graduate assistants. Since the state budget situation is worsening, Glover would like the Faculty Council to help him focus on where to cut to be able to invest elsewhere.

The meeting closed at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Larson, Associate Chair