CLAS Faculty Council Minutes  
Monday, February 7, 2010  
150 Pugh Hall  

Members Present: Susan Hegeman, Brent Henderson, Kevin Ingersent, Howard Louthan, Ellen Martin, John Palmer, Richard Scher, Rick Stepp, Bridgette Weltman-Aron, Rick Yost  
Members Absent: Paul Robinson, Clive Wynne  
Ex-officio member present: David Foster  
Ex-officio member absent: Jed Keesling  
Student representative absent: LeRae Scantling  
Guests: Dave Richardson  

1. Rick Yost called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM  

2. Minutes of the December 7, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved  

3. Presentation on NRC Data  

- Dave Richardson, CLAS Senior Associate Dean, made a presentation on the college's analysis of the data on its department in the recent National Research Council report. His presentation was designed to help the Council better understand the complex data in the NRC report by explaining some of the statistical methods employed in generating its rankings. Richardson's presentation made clear the importance of the NRC's conversion process of standardization used to combine noncommensurable variables in the rankings and the use of the statistical method of random halves to generate a ranking range rather than an absolute ranking for each department.  

- Richardson answered questions from Council members on the NRC's methods of statistical analysis.  

- Richardson also described how the college has generated data from the NRC report for individual CLAS departments to use in preparing their reports for the Committee on Doctoral Education and for longer term purposes. He described the generation of CLAS Program Weighted Results designed to make it apparent how the 20 variables in the NRC assessment affected departments' overall scores. He also outlines how departments have been given means to identify how changes/improvements would affect their scores.
4. At 3:58 PM Dean D’Anieri joined the meeting.
   • Richardson's presentation continued. Its conclusion was followed by questions and discussion of more general issues arising from NRC the assessments, how they might help the college and departments identify areas for improvement, and how they make possible identification of intradisciplinary national norms in lieu of the often problematic interdepartmental comparisons within the university.

5. There was brief discussion of the plans for the Council's next meeting and of the agenda for the CLAS Assembly meeting on February 24.

6. Dean D’Anieri reported on current issues he anticipates requiring the Council's input in the near future. He focused on the ongoing negotiations regarding the Economics Department's move from the College of Business to CLAS. The process for college approval of such a move was discussed. Alternative scenarios that would still enable CLAS to meet its students' needs were also discussed. Dean D'Anieri and Council members also discussed the current uncertainty regarding the state budget for the coming year.

7. After Dean D'Anieri's departure at 4:57 PM, the Council Chair updated members on issues arising in the Board of Governors that may merit the Council's attention in future meetings.

8. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.