CLAS Faculty Council Minutes for Monday, February 21, 2011 (Revised 4/11/11)

Members Present: Rick Yost, Brent Henderson, Susan Hegeman, Paul Robinson, Richard Scher, Clive Wynne, Ellen Martin, Kevin Ingersent, John Palmer, Howard Louthan, Brigitte Weltman-Aron

Members Absent: Rick Stepp

Ex-officio members present: Jed Keesling, David Foster

Student Representative present: Gregory Pavela

Student Representative absent: Lerae Scantling

1. Meeting called at 3:03pm

2. Minutes of February 7th, 2011 were unanimously approved.

3. Topic of Shared Governance Report
   Rick shared that he must turn in a report on the college’s progress on the ten principles of shared governance, but the previous methods used for assessing opinions on this in the college haven’t proved very efficient or useful. We discussed further ways to go about this. Members also discussed two common problems: lack of enthusiasm for governance at the college level, and lack of understanding/appreciation for why it is important. Jed Keesling suggested getting someone from the Doctoral Education Review committee to come talk to the Council on the general topic. Rick ended discussion by asking for comments on each of the ten principles on the form via email with the idea that he’ll synthesize and compose a college-level response from the committee. It was suggested that other CLAS elected committees also be involved in the report.

4. Discussion of the CAVP’s draft report on ‘Articulation, Coordination and Coherence of Academic Delivery across the State University System.’
   It provides for BOG annual reviews of state subsidized programs and based on graduation rates, recommendations can be made for (dis-)continuations of programs.

5. Agenda for CLAS Assembly (Feb 24)
   Jed Keesling gave us a preview of the meeting. Dave Richardson will speak at this meeting and talk about the Doctoral Education Review committee and their work interpreting NRC data.

6. Economics
   We discussed the potential move of the Economics Department from the College of Business to CLAS. The department has had one vote that was a slight majority in favor of moving, but they have questions. They are re-voting soon. According to the CLAS constitution, this will require a vote of approval of the Council if they choose to move to CLAS.
7. New item: graduate tuition costs
   Rick gave us a graph representing projections of graduate tuition increases that suggests it will soon be cheaper to hire post-docs than grad students. It incentivizes grant applicants to fund post-docs on grants and put grad students on teaching.

8. Dean D’Anieri joined us at about 4:05pm.
   Paul gave us an update on the shift of the Economics department to CLAS. He does not see this as going through quickly since whatever is decided is likely to be controversial within the college. He discussed several aspects and details of bringing Economics into CLAS and fielded questions about how this would work and the costs/benefits to CLAS. The most difficult possibility will be if they vote against coming into CLAS. This would be more complicated, but potentially financially more beneficial to CLAS since we would gain SCHs at low costs.

9. The Dean also mentioned that the Teaching Center will be moving to CLAS as of July 1st (from Academic Technology). This will mean integrating UWP and tutoring programs.

10. Shared service centers for CLAS. CLAS is just starting this conversation seriously, considering shifting department office managers to central service centers. It seems there could be a lot of savings and increased efficiency. The Dean expressed hope that no one would be laid off in this process if it goes ahead.

11. Rick reminded us we have to elect a new chair on April 11 to replace him and encouraged those in their first year of Council service to self-nominate.

12. Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.