Members present: Monika Ardelt, Susan Bluck, Robert d’Amico (for Michael Martinez), Tace Hedrick, Brent Henderson, Kevin Ingersent, Jed Keesling, Ellen Martin, Leslie Murray, John Palmer, Andrew Rosalsky, Gonda Van Steen, Brigitte Weltman-Aron

Members absent: Rick Stepp

Student representatives absent: one undergraduate and one graduate student

1. John Palmer as Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. The minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved (after brief verification of a few dates).

3. The Chair announced that the undergraduate representative to the FC has now been appointed. His name is Kem Chatfield, Jr.

4. Associate Deans David Pharies and Alan Dorsey joined in the FC’s discussion of the college-level review process of the Doctoral Program Improvement Plans (DPIPs). The various members of the three FC working groups fine-tuned plans to meet and discuss their findings between Nov. 23 (receipt of the DPIPs from the various depts.) and Dec. 15 (FC deadline to review the DPIPs and forward suggestions to the depts.). The final version of the DPIPs must be submitted to a campus-wide review committee by January 20, 2012. The Chair’s proposal for the breakdown of the working groups was accepted, confirming that the working groups will read the DPIPs across disciplines. A few more practical concerns and suggestions were raised. The FC agreed that a standard report with feedback for any given dept. should not exceed two pages and should be comprised of a standard introductory paragraph, followed by a list of bullet points that correspond with the numbers of the items addressed by the dept. in its 10-page report. In addition, one person from each working group will function as the contact person for a department that may have further questions. The FC will take stock of the ongoing review process at its Dec. 8 meeting. Lastly, John urged us to bring any questions we may have to the CLAS meeting with the Provost to be held on Oct. 12.

5. At 10:00 a.m., Dean Paul D’Anieri joined the meeting and discussion of the DPIP review process briefly continued. The Dean will run his CLAS report on the DPIPs by the FC (an early Jan. 2012 agenda item). The FC agreed that it would be useful to compile a list of “best practices” for departments or provide feedback in more general terms in addition to suggestions on the individual reports.

6. With the General Education Task Force - Humanities having issued its final report, there was discussion of whether the FC should issue a statement on its view regarding the proposed implementation of HUM 2305: What Is the Good Life? as a required course for all first-year students. The FC has taken an active interest in the development of this course but has thus far taken no position on its implementation. The importance of soliciting the opinions of the Humanities Chairs at this juncture before proceeding was recognized.

7. The agenda item, “Assessing the effects of CLAS budget cuts and future planning,” was briefly discussed and then tabled for the next FC meeting (Nov. 10).

8. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by Gonda Van Steen