CLAS Faculty Council Minutes  
Tues., February 21, 2012  
150 Pugh Hall

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

Members absent: Rick Stepp

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

2. The minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. IFAS's Dr. Cheri Brodeur, the incoming Faculty Senate President for AY 2012-2013, attended the first part of the meeting. Her presentation focused on the proposed GatorCare self-insurance plan. Dr Brodeur described what the Senate has been doing to foster communication between the administration and faculty and to ensure that faculty have more than adequate opportunities for feedback and input during the plan's crucial development phase. Council Member Monika Ardelt, who also serves as a member of the Faculty Senate Welfare Committee, also made a brief presentation on the Senate's efforts. Both Dr. Brodeur and Dr. Ardelt emphasized the need to ensure that all affected persons in the College are informed about the plan and communicate their questions, concerns, or other issues to those currently designing the plan, negotiating with vendors, and preparing for implementation. It was agreed the FC Chair would write to the Chair of each department to personally encourage them to direct their members to the available information resources on the self-insurance plan and to urge them to communicate any concerns they may have (e.g., via the Faculty Senate Discussion blog).

4. Dean D'Anieri joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m., accompanied by Assistant Dean Margaret Fields, who made a presentation regarding the planned creation of a Shared Services Center in CLAS. There was a lively discussion of the advantages and potential disadvantages involved in the transition to a shared services model. There was concern that the plan's projected savings would come from an overall reduction in the number of staff in the College, it was noted that staff levels over the past five to six years of budget cutting have remained basically steady while the number of faculty in the College has decreased by roughly twenty percent. Dean D'Anieri indicated that the plans for implementation would in all likelihood proceed.

5. The Chair reported on his presentation to the February 13, 2012 meeting of the Senate Academic Policy Council on recommendations for the University's Doctoral Program Improvement Plan Review Committee. It was agreed that the Chair, on behalf of the Council, would respond to the APC's request for advice on the type of input it should be seeking from the various committees that conducted the college-level reviews so that the Senate may forward its recommendations to the university-level review committee by the end of the semester.

6. Item 3 on the agenda was tabled for later discussion.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.