

CLAS Faculty Council Minutes  
November 19, 2013  
219 Dauer Hall

Attending: Ben Smith, Shifra Armon, Gillian Lord, Sixue Chen, Kenneth Kidd, Marta Wayne,  
Jon Martin (Chair)  
Rick Yost (ex-officio)

Meeting called to order 11:35

(1) Logistics

- (a) Shifra agreed to take meeting notes.
- (b) Minutes from October 15, 2013 meeting were approved.
- (c) Next meeting date set for December: 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

(2) Information items:

- a) At Provost Glover's request, Council reviewed a draft for an alternate UF Mission Statement which reads:

*Our mission is to shape a better future for Florida and the world through developing students to be the next generation of leaders; through excellence in research and **graduate education**; and through creating, preserving and sharing knowledge and expertise for economic, cultural and societal benefit.*

Sixue proposed removing the word "graduate" from the phrase "graduate education" in order to address both UF's undergraduate and graduate missions. The Council agreed the revised version was preferable to the initial version. Jon will forward these suggestions to the Provost via Dean D'Anieri.

- b) Jon reported on the College Faculty Council Chairs (CFCC) meeting, Nov. 4th:

I. Preeminence Opportunities

(1) Cluster Hires

CFCC raised issues of search committee appointments and tenure home of hires

Council expressed concern that these hires are not initiated within departments but from higher administration. This changes the longstanding practice of granting departments internal autonomy for prioritizing hiring needs

(2) UF Core curriculum

(3) UF online BA/BS degrees

II. Raising visibility – cross campus initiatives:

(1) Town Hall Meetings

Jon solicited ideas from Council for future meetings.

(2) Distinguished Professor lectures

(3) Round table discussions

III. Academic Personnel Board – reviews 230 to 250 packets per year; plans to reconfigure board

Jon explained that IFAS Extension applications would be handled separately

IV. Student evaluations of faculty teaching

Council discussed the continuing low rate of response and the fact that results tend toward extremes.

(3) Strategic Plan

Because the current plan is due to expire, Dean D'Anieri is soliciting input in the form of a faculty poll. There have been 7 responses to date. To increase response, Council members should respond to this poll and urge colleagues to do so as well. Also, Jon will ask for a reminder to be sent out by the College. The Council agreed to synthesize survey results.

(4) Discussion of evaluations:

a) Chair evaluations

Gillian Lord requested Council input on proposed chair evaluation form. She shared feedback already received for condensing it. Some chairs are voluntarily giving the draft to their faculty to see how it works. She asked for feedback from the Council by December 4.

b) Peer teaching evaluations – how can this process be improved?

It was noted that peer evaluations are not uniformly performed by all departments. Marta suggested opening a best practices website for faculty to share ideas.

(5) Other business

Open Access (OA)

UF is undertaking an initiative to require faculty to deposit all publications in a library-administered OA archive.

Council responses to this initiative:

- What is the problem that this initiative is addressing?
- Is this consistent with peer land-grant institutions?
- Publishers may resist or refuse to publish faculty articles with this stipulation attached to them
- Use of funds required to build such a database might be used instead to pay publisher OA subvention fees

Council needs further information before taking any action. Jon will contact Dean of the Libraries, Judy Russell, to arrange for a representative from the library to discuss the Open Access policy at the next Faculty Council meeting. Jon will also request an extension of the December 16 deadline for compiled responses from the college.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45