

College of Liberal Arts Council
Dec. 4, 2007 meeting minutes

Members present: Bardhan, Baertsch, Beardsworth, Benti, Bird, Burnside, Cáceres, Gadzekpo, Giblin, Gray, Lapham, Leonard, Ludwig, Netzley, Rodriguez, Schoof, Silver, Sloboda (proxy for Cook), Spaulding, Venable, Wang, Ward.

Members absent: Breznikar, Chonez, Cook, Curtis, Kidd, Lapham, Morshed, Ojewuyi, Pattisapu, Poquette, Rivera.

1. Welcome, Chair Alejandro Cáceres

Cáceres called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Nov. 6, 2007, meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Netzley. Seconded by Rodriguez. Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Guest Speaker

Cáceres announced that Chancellor Treviño had to postpone his visit. Due to other commitments, he will not be able to address the Council before the May 2008 meeting. Virginia Rinella, director of the Pre-Major Advisement Center, is scheduled to address the Council at the February 2008 meeting.

4. Committee Reports

Academic Policy – No report. The committee is currently working on the RME for a Global Studies minor

Promotions – Leonard reported that the committee is focusing on promotion efforts directed towards high school students. It is working closely with the student-run PR firm Pyramid in this effort, as well as with Andrea Hahn at University Communications.

Teaching and Learning – No report.

Grievance – No report.

Selections & Election – Rodriguez reported on the progress on updating and revising the Council operating papers. Members of the Selections & Election Committee and the Grievance Committee, combined for this purpose, will be looking at:

-Issues of faculty representation (move to a 'senate' model where each unit in CoLA will have one representative?)

-Student representation ratio (will likely remain the same?)

-Include language for appointing an interim CoLA dean as well as an interim associate dean. The combined committee hopes to bring proposed changes to the table for discussion at the Feb. 2008 meeting, with a possibility of voting at either the March or April meeting.

5. Dean's Remarks, Alan Vaux

Dean Vaux noted that the work done on WAC by the Council last year was highly productive, and that funds have been procured for workshops and other initiatives which will be taking place next semester. He commended Jonny Gray, Gerry Nelms and Jim Allen for their involvement and efforts in this area. He requested members to make a conscious effort to revive WAC and share information with colleagues.

Vaux stated that the tenure and promotion letters are being written and that he is impressed by the amount of good work being done by CoLA faculty. The search for the associate dean is also on, and the goal is to wrap the search up before winter break.

The dean also noted the progress made by the CoLA Council executive board on pinpointing changes that need to be made in the operating papers, and he said that he hopes the changes will make the Council a more flexible and agile body. He requested all Council members for their input. He wrapped up his remarks with announcements on past and upcoming CoLA events.

Ward asked about the status of hiring. Vaux explained that the budget deficit is still serious, and that approximately 5 or 6 of the 12 requests for searches will likely not be granted. He added that the cancelled searches will be a high priority for next year.

6. Associate Dean's Remarks, David DiLalla

DiLalla reported that faculty searches are progressing cautiously, and that the Budget Committee met recently and ranked the received proposals. He also stated that he and Dean Vaux have started meeting the faculty of CoLA departments, and hope to be able to visit all departments by the end of spring semester.

Other topics covered by DiLalla were the workshops being offered through the Women's Studies Program for students experiencing stalking problems in relationships, the status of maintenance at Faner, and the Living Learning Communities that CoLA is a part of. He encouraged faculty to be involved in the program. Hutton added that civil service employees can also be involved in this program. Cáceres shared his experience of having participated.

7. Dean's Office Business, Anita Hutton

Hutton reported that the Externship Program interviewing process has started, that the dean's office is working with the Promotions Committee to compile materials targeting high school students, and she encouraged faculty to participate in the upcoming Finals Finish event. She also asked members to encourage students to enroll for the spring since enrollment is down by 62-65 students for next semester.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Announcements

Dean Vaux mentioned that many universities are promoting their ecologically and environmentally friendly programs and operations at recruitment fairs. He suggested that CoLA and SIU should also be thinking about how to showcase our green initiatives at these fairs.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Rodriguez at 6:35 p.m. Seconded by Netzley.

