MINUTES OF ARTS & SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 3:30pm | Suite 1600 Student Union

Minutes

1. Chair Caldwell called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

2. Roll Call

Attendance
ASFC Present: John Kinder (HIST), Jeffrey Loeffert (MUSI), Lloyd Caldwell (TH), Allen Finchum (GEOG), Lori McKinnon (SMSC), Andy Fullerton (SOC), David Meinke (BOT), Kim Burnham (MICR), Lynn Lewis (ENGL), Jay Gregg (GEOLO), Leticia Barchini (MATH), Shelia Kennison (PSYC), Lan Zhu (STAT), Eric Turcat (FLL), Apple Igrek (PHIL), Eve Ringsmuth (POLIS), Jan Marks (CDIS), Gil Summy (PHYS), Jennifer Shaw (ZOOL), Barry Lavine (CHEM), Liz Roth (ART), Doug Heisterkamp (CS)

ASFC Absent:

Administration Present: Dean Bret Danilowicz, Associate Dean Bruce Crauder, Assistant Dean Bobbikay Lewis

3. Approval of the Minutes
a. Motion to approve – Burnham. Seconded by Finchum. Minutes approved.

4. Approval of the Agenda
a. Motion to approve – Lavine. Seconded by Roth. Agenda approved pending grammatical corrections.

5. Standing Committee Reports
a. College Policy and Planning – Barry Lavine
   i. Lavine: There were some challenges understanding the concept of clinical faculty because of the original Regents policy that designated that these were clinicians engaging in lab work. Applying this as part of a larger rubric presents some challenges. The first part of the document is a series of questions that we asked the Provost to help better understand the definition of a clinical faculty member. There is some ambiguity as to whether or not a clinical faculty member can be terminated due to a lack of availability in funds in the case of a multiyear contract. Clinical faculty have academic freedom, and salary is commensurate with faculty with similar experience and credentials in their respective departments. Clinical faculty should be recruited in a national search. If a clinical faculty member is terminated due to unsatisfactory job performance, there is a grievance procedure for them. There are no limitations on the number of clinical faculty in the College of A&S. On one hand, a clinical faculty member can be viewed as temporary faculty. Clinical faculty can receive contracts for multiple years and opportunities for professional development. Clinical faculty can also be promoted. There are currently around ten clinical faculty members in the college.
   ii. Associate Dean Crauder: Many departments employ the same lecturers year after year. These lectures are subject to annual contract renewals. With a clinical position, they require one full year of notice prior to being terminated.
   iii. Dean Danilowicz: For clinical positions, we offer multiyear contracts. In our college, these are typically three-year appointments that can be renewed.
   iv. Lavine: Clinical faculty members also have opportunities for professional development and can serve on many committees except for RPT committees (perhaps they can serve on promotional committees that evaluate clinical faculty).
   v. Finchum: Clinical faculty can also be promoted.
   vi. Barchini: Is there a minimum requirement to be hired as clinical faculty? Does one need a terminal degree?
   vii. Lavine: These guidelines are generally set by the departments. They should have credentials that are comparable to tenure/tenure-track faculty in their departments.

b. Curriculum, General Education and Extension – Leticia Barchini
   i. Barchini: No report.

c. Rules and Procedures – Liz Roth
i. Roth: No report.
d. Scholarship – Jennifer Shaw
i. Shaw: No report.

6. Old Business
   a. Supplemental Pay relating to On-Line and Summer Courses
      i. Assistant Dean Lewis provided a document with the pay scale breakdown from last year along with
         three proposed percentage-based pay scale options for the ASFC to consider.
      ii. Caldwell: The question posed by the ASFC is do all three of the proposed pay scale options fit within
          the college budget for these courses.
      iii. Assistant Dean Lewis confirmed that this is correct.
      iv. Dean Danilowicz: There was a lot of concern at the previous meeting regarding the courses that are
          paid at the highest pay rate. Last year, there were only five courses paid at the highest rate. It is these
          courses that ultimately make the low enrollment classes financially viable.
      v. Meinke: Why does not one of these options contain a significantly compressed pay scale?
      vi. Assistant Dean Lewis: If we do not provide incentive for instructors to teach large enrollment classes,
          then no one will teach them.
      vii. Meinke: I would counter that we must provide incentives to teach small enrollment courses, otherwise
          some very important courses will not be taught.
      viii. Assistant Dean Lewis: The lower end of the pay scale pays more than it did just a couple of years ago.
           This pay scale does provide more incentive for faculty to teach courses with small enrollment.
      ix. Igrek: Is it possible to offer a lower maximum pay?
     x. Assistant Dean Lewis: It will not make much of a difference because it only applies to five faculty
         members.
     xi. Lavine: I think that it is a better use of our time to consider strategies to attract more students to these
         classes.
     xii. Roth: The scale was not standardized before and perhaps we should not standardize pay scales for
         online versus classroom teaching.
     xiii. Fullerton: All three of these options are much better than the proposal from before. Option three
         looks to be very similar to the scale from last year.
     xiv. McKinnon: Are there departments that must run lab classes between 10-15?
     xlv. Assistant Dean Lewis: Face to face classes can be negotiated with the Dean’s Office, particularly to
         address issues regarding fire code.
     xvi. The ASFC decides on an email vote prior to the next meeting to select the preferred salary based pay
         scale for outreach courses.
     xvii. Caldwell: Please submit a vote to the chair via email on the preferred option.

7. New Business
   a. None.

8. Dean’s Report
   a. Dean Danilowicz: We have received permission to begin providing snacks for the ASFC meetings. This will
      start soon.
   b. We have received a second in-year budget reduction unexpectedly. This amounts to a $212,000 reduction,
      which in essence will become a permanent budget cut. It is a cut that will continue into next year. There is
      about a 4.3% budget cut planned for the college. It is a huge percentage of our flexible budget.
   c. Honors courses have traditionally been offered as sections in 22 or 15. By next summer 2017, the goal is to
      eliminate almost all of these courses. The problems are that they are expensive to run, and having our best
      instructors work exclusively with our honors students and never the general student population is counter to
      the land grant mission. Interdisciplinary upper division courses will remain and perhaps grow. I have contacted
      about twelve departments to ask them to begin transitioning their honors courses to honors add-ons when
      possible. By contrast, we want more interdisciplinary upper division courses. The feedback that I have heard
      from several departments is that they prefer the add-on model. I do want the council to be aware that this can
      create a heavier teaching load for instructors teaching these courses.
      i. Roth: How does this affect the experience for honors students, especially if there are not many courses
         specifically designed as honors courses?
      ii. Dean Danilowicz: In general, the students going through the honors degree end up taking a lot of
          freshman level honors classes, but then they have very few honors courses after that except in a few
          programs. Our students in general have to take far more honors courses at Oklahoma State University
than at other universities. The plan is to move some of these lower division honors courses more to the add-ons, because the students get a very different experience than they do through a traditional three-hour course. By reducing these, we will focus more on the one-hour interdisciplinary courses where the students really get an enriched experience. Also, many students leave the Honors College between the first and second years, which means that we invest a lot in students who do not complete the program. By switching these over to more upper division courses, this becomes a better experience for the students and provides more courses for those students who intend to complete their studies in the program.

iii. Lavine: For the students that opt for an honors contract, could the add-on be a substitute?
iv. Dean Danilowicz: Yes, and in fact the Honors College would like to eliminate all honors contracts because they are very difficult to administer. Also, faculty who consistently teach courses with a lot of students who pursue honors contracts have a heavier teaching load that would be compressed if they were teaching courses with honors add-ons.

v. Lewis: How narrowly have we defined interdisciplinary studies in A&S?
vi. Dean Danilowicz: The Honors College is very open to interdisciplinary course proposals. Also, honors English composition will remain as is.

vii. Summy: Is there a possibility of offering new honors courses? If so, what is the minimum number of students required to run the course?

viii. Dean Danilowicz: I think that it will typically be around 22 students, and they will be junior or senior level. I would also recommend that you contact Dean Garbutt in the Honors College.

ix. Kinder: We teach a lot of these in the History department. We teach these on specialized topics that are often offered around a faculty member’s research interest.

9. Announcements
   a. Chair Caldwell will be in touch with the chairs of the standing committees for the next meeting to see if there are any end-of-year reports. We will also hold elections during the next meeting for the offices of Secretary and Vice Chair.

10. Announcements
    a. Roth moves to adjourn. Finchum seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:24pm.