

Minutes of the College of Arts and Sciences  
9/28/07 – Meeting convened 12:06 pm

- 1) Undergraduate Research Report – Kim Reiter, Chair
  - a) SURCAS (Stetson University Research and Creative Arts Symposium) will take place Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Faculty are encouraged to get more students involved, from *every level* and *every department*. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our research symposium – “let’s make it a blowout!”
  - b) Faculty are also encouraged to get more students to submit SURE Grant proposals; the committee would like these grants to be competitive.
- 2) Update on the Course Unit Model – Michael Branton, Chair of Faculty Working Group
  - a) Chair reports that the FWG has met with nearly all departments and will be meeting with programs, at their request.
  - b) Feedback thus far indicates that there is strong support for simplifying the General Education Requirements. The discussions revealed a tension between a strong feeling that General Education shouldn’t be structured by disciplines departmental concerns.
  - c) Faculty discussed perceived obstacles, which included concerns over teaching load, time and support for restructuring courses, reallocation of time and resources, and the role of the curricular work in the tenure and promotion process.
  - d) Members of the FWG strongly encouraged faculty to continue to comment and to become involved in the discussions online, at <http://pippin.stetson.edu/cu/>
- 3) Board of Trustees Report – Grady Ballenger, Dean
  - a) Dean Ballenger discussed the tendency for the BOT to review issues first on the basis of countable numbers (e.g. the Stetson Financial Index; Credit Hours Generated, etc.). Faculty should be mindful of that propensity. Despite the fact that this approach may not fully represent what we do, it is prompted by a very real concern about enrollment-driven budget issues.
  - b) Enrollment was down this year, creating a budget shortfall that was only partly offset by decreases in the discount level. One notable area where we have difficulty is in attracting transfer students.
  - c) Dean Ballenger will be working with Chairs to update documents regarding our articulation with transfer students.
  - d) On a positive note, he reported that the Trustee discussions regarding the Presidential search were encouraging and clearly mindful of the role of faculty in the process.
- 4) Update on Faculty Searches in the College – Grady Ballenger, Dean
  - a) We have received budget approval for 10 searches this year; all are replacements in existing lines). All these openings were advertised in The Chronicle of Higher Education.
  - b) The Budget Committee (and the Board of Trustees) has indicated concern that hires be in areas of real need. Replacing faculty who retire or resign should be done only after reviewing the enrollment patterns, keeping in mind the changes over time. The current policy requires budget approval of these hiring decisions, which raised some concerns among academic administration and faculty alike: does the VP for Finance have more authority in academic hiring decisions than is appropriate?
  - c) Reviewing needs by considering only enrollment numbers in major and minor programs ignores the very real issue of departmental service to the University as a whole. This aspect of program and department contribution is extremely underreported.
- 5) Planning for Presidential Preview Day (Open House event) – Lois Williams
  - a) Preliminary RSVPs indicated a number of students in excess of 750 may be attending, accompanied by parents and family members. If so, this would be substantially larger than any past open house event (prior average for this event is between 115 – 145).
  - b) Ms. Williams distributed a potential schedule, as a starting point for the planning process. The tentative schedule included the possibility that some departments might need to offer more than one session during the same time slot to accommodate the larger number of participants

anticipated. In addition, some departments were encouraged to combine their separate presentations into joint presentations, to increase attendance at less commonly attended sessions.

- c) Faculty discussed these possibilities, suggesting other options for accommodating the larger crowd. These other options included: having more than two session times available; maintaining separate sessions for departments that wanted them; creating interdisciplinary lecture/panel discussions, instead of departmental presentations; and using a “college fair” approach to allow students to browse more departments.

Respectfully Submitted, Toni L. Blum