

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting
April 07, 2011

Members Present: Mark Baskaran, renee hoogland, Charles Parrish, Elizabeth Lublin, Geoff Nathan, Marsha Richmond, Avis Vidal, Robert Reynolds, Markus Friedrich, Fred Pearson, Mark Vanberkum, John Klein, David Coleman, Anne Duggan

Attending: Donald Haase, Christine Chow, Caroline Brzuchowski, Paul Clemens, Joe Rankin, Joe Kieleszewski, Robert Thomas, Monica Brockmeyer

Absent With Notice: Caroline Morgan, Allen Goodman, Mark Ferguson, Boris Baltes

The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

The minutes of the March 03, 2011 meeting were approved.

Computer Science Interim Chair Monica Brockmeyer spoke of the department's upcoming move to the College of Engineering. She noted that Provost Brown had asked the Academic Senate to consider the move of the department from CLAS to Engineering back in January; that it was recently approved by the Senate; that the proposal to make the move will go to the Board of Governors in June; and that it will take effect in the fall.

She said that the department will move in its entirety, with resources intact, though it will remain housed in 5057 Woodward. The department's BS degree will now be offered through Engineering, though the BA and BAIST degrees will stay in CLAS so that CLAS students can have access to Computer Science degree programs, particularly as second major possibilities.

John Klein asked if it was correct that the suggestion for the move came from the provost. Brockmeyer said that it was, but that it was strongly endorsed by the department. Marsha Richmond asked if a vote was taken. Brockmeyer said that there were 19 votes in favor of the move, with 3 votes against and 2 abstentions.

Dean Thomas said that he first saw the plan for the move on March 30th. He wondered, in the context of the budget cut, if there was a conflict in the department getting to move to Engineering intact.

Charles Parrish said that the Senate looked into the move and voted in favor of it. He agreed with the dean and others that the academic rationale for the move was not spelled out particularly well, but said that it was, essentially, a political move: the College of Engineering hired the chair of Computer Science, so it made sense for the department to follow him.

Brockmeyer said that most Computer Science faculty do feel that having a dean from one's own department is beneficial, but that the departmental support for the move is not

due to that alone. Computer Science departments nationwide, she said, are moving from colleges of arts and sciences to engineering. Moreover, while some are questioning the academic rationale for the move, she said that she has yet to hear a clear rationale for why Computer Science is a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences field.

Elizabeth Lublin wondered if the college could leverage the move, and count it as part of the budget cut. There was general agreement that it could not.

Avis Vidal said that there will be further discussion of the move at the board level, and that the issues the council has discussed can be brought up then.

Speaking for the Curriculum Committee, Avid Vidal asked that her report be deferred to the May meeting.

On behalf of the CLAS Elections Committee, Robert Reynolds noted that the deadline for nominations for the college elections was tomorrow (April 8) and that the college was still well short of the needed nominees. Council members proposed various names to fill in the slates, with promises to notify those whose names they'd put forward.

Fred Pearson presented a report from the CLAS Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). He said that the committee met with the dean and dean's staff three times and that the committee's goal was a ten percent reduction in the college's budget, or \$5.7 million. He noted that 10% is probably not the operative figure, which is likely to be more in the area of 6%, and might be even lower than that.

Pearson said that though many department chairs wanted to cut vacant lines, the dean interpreted the provost's directive to mean that strategic cuts were required—that is, the elimination of programs.

Pearson said that the BAC went through the list of departments, centers, programs, and institutes in the college while consulting information related to each area's funding, its ranking, its number of majors, and so on. The BAC also reviewed the area's "fit" with the mission of the college.

Avis Vidal noted that Pearson had used the terms "program" and "departments" more or less interchangeably in his presentation and said that there are sometimes several programs within individual departments.

Charles Parrish asked what the criteria for the committee's operation was, pointing out once again that Mike McIntyre's paper from 2004 has been cited by the provost and president as a guide in their decision-making process. Parrish also noted that the ultimate budget-cutting decisions will be made by the provost and the blue-ribbon committee, and that the proposed cuts from the dean are just the first step in a long process.

Pearson pointed out that the original deadline for getting the college's proposed cuts to the provost's office was April 6, but that the dean got an extension to April 8 (so that he

could discuss the matter with Council). He asked the dean if he could give the council an indication of what he'd be recommending.

The dean said that he was trying not to close departments. He added that, since the cuts would be massaged from now until July, he saw no benefit in publishing things that might very well not happen.

Parrish stated his belief that, whatever is recommended, WSU's students need to be considered. He said that, in his capacity as AAUP President, he would not ask the union's members to give up their raises if there are not cuts to non-student programs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.