

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
February 15, 2011
Oakland Center, Oakland Room**

Members present: *Berven, D., Berven, K., Dvir, Eis, Giberson, Graves, Grossman, Jumel, Khain, LaRock, Lombardo, Martin, Nielsen, Nugent, Ogunyemi, Sanders, Sheridan, Trumbore, Whitehead, Williams, Wood*

Members absent: *Hawkins, Hay, Howell, Meehan, Kerrigan, Schweitzer, Seymour, Spencer Wood, Wright*

Ex-officio present: *Moore, Stewart*

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Associate Dean Moore.

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of January 18, 2011

The minutes from the Assembly meeting of January 18, 2011, were approved (motion by Dvir, second by K. Berven).

3. Name Change, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

Resolution: *The Assembly of the College of Arts and Sciences supports a change in the name of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance to the School of Music, Theatre and Dance for the purposes of raising its visibility and stature both inside and outside the university, competing effectively for top performing arts students, confirming its status as a provider of professional education, and enabling broader opportunities for development and fundraising. The unit will remain a department for the purposes of the Bargaining Unit Agreement, including being led by a chair, who will also be the director of the School. (motion by Dvir, second by K. Berven)*

Jackie Wiggins (Chair, Music, Theatre and Dance) began the discussion by saying that there has been a misunderstanding of who MTD is now. In 1987, music, theatre and dance were combined. In the 1980s, this arrangement worked okay, but by the year 2000 the department had grown so much that the model was not working anymore. In essence, presently there are faculty members who work as chairs within the units of the department, as autonomously as any department chair in the CAS. She reiterated that they have completely outgrown their current model. She noted that the MTD is not looking to leave the CAS, but instead are just seeking a name change to 'school.' With the present name of 'department' they do not look like what they are, and they are simply asking for recognition of what they have become.

Mr. Grossman said that this seemed to be in conflict with what the resolution stated. Ms. Wiggins said that under the current contract, this has to be the case. But ultimately, there should be three departments. Mr. Grossman expressed his concern that Dean Sudol had

not brought this issue to other players and Schools on campus. He said that this did not show respect for shared governance. He indicated that he supports the idea but cannot vote for the resolution because of this. Ms. Moore said that in her opinion this *is* shared governance. Ms. Wiggins said that in the next contract they would ask for a change, but for now they just need the name change. Mr. Dvir said that he sees two issues: the first one (that can be put aside) is whether or not Mr. Sudol should have come to the Assembly with more information. The second issue is that our colleagues in MTD want this, and so we should support it. He pointed out that the MTD is unique and sufficiently different from other departments to warrant the change. He observed that they are doing a great job. Ms. Wood said that she understands the situation, but she said she wanted to point out that there are other departments in the same situation and that this resolution could have implications because MTD is not unique. The Department of Art and Art History is similar. If a precedent is set here from the point of view of structural changes, then her department would like to know what these changes include. Ms. Moore said that Schools of Art within Colleges of Arts and Sciences are not uncommon either. The present resolution really is a name change only. Mr. Trumbore said that he would like to make the same point that he had made in previous Assembly meetings on this subject that it is not our responsibility to defend the interests of other possible stakeholders. Our mission is to promote what is best for the CAS, and this resolution is in the best interest of the College. Mr. Berven suggested that as an Assembly we have no control over what the Dean does. All we can do is support this or not support it, and the rest is up to the Dean. Ms. Eis observed that at the last CAS meeting, the Dean had confirmed that the present request is for a name change only and that structural changes would come later. She said that she would like to know what these structural changes are. She asked if the structural changes will come to the Assembly and if MTD will be creating a new department. Ms. Wiggins said that at the present time they would not be doing so. Mr. Graves said he wanted to introduce a friendly amendment, namely, to change the word ‘purpose’ in the resolution to the word ‘purposes.’ There was agreement for this. Ms. Moore called for the vote on the resolution. The motion passed with 20 ‘yes’ votes and one abstention (Mr. Grossman).

II. Proposal for a Ph.D. in Applied and Computational Physics, *first reading*

André Slavin (Chair, Physics) introduced the proposal for a Ph.D. in Applied and Computational Physics and explained why it is needed. He said that there is a Ph.D. in medical physics, but only half of the faculty members in the Physics department work in this field. The department’s annual report shows that department enrollment is stable and one of the largest in the state of Michigan. Credit delivery by faculty is continuously increasing. In the last year, their 10 faculty members published over 100 papers in refereed journals. They bring in \$2 million per year in research funding, more than the entire School of Engineering and the Eye Research Institute. Overhead return to the university is equal to the amount of faculty salaries. They need Ph.D. students to improve their ability to get funding from the outside. Mr. Khain (Physics) explained that the proposed program emphasizes a practical (applied) track and a theoretical (computational) track. There are courses common to both and unique to each. The program consists of 48 credits (seven full courses and research seminars) of coursework

and 42 credits of dissertation research, which is in line with programs in other departments and universities. Letters of support from the Department of Mathematics, among others, are attached to the proposal. Mr. Slavin said that their department will be better able to interact with other parts of the university with the two tracks. For instance, they may be able to attract graduates of Engineering to this Ph.D. program, so it is intercollegiate as well. Brad Roth (Physics) provided a brief review of the research areas of individual faculty members within Physics.

Mr. Graves asked whether the hope was that this degree would be up and running by Fall, 2011. Mr. Khain replied that probably it would be the following fall, and Ms. Moore agreed that the anticipated date is Fall, 2012. Mr. Slavin explained that they already have a 'super computer,' which is needed for this type of Ph.D., and therefore external funding would not be needed for that purpose. Mr. Berven wondered, given how successful the department has been up until this point, whether having graduate students in this Ph.D. program would actually have the potential of slowing them down. Mr. Slavin said that there are presently 20 M.A. students in the Physics department who typically stay from one to one and a half years. They need students to stay in the department and be productive for four or five years, which is a main reason for the Ph.D. program. Mr. Grossman asked whether there are presently more M.A. or Ph.D. students in the Physics department. Ms. Moore said there are more Ph.D. students. Mr. Grossman asked if the Ph.D. program would be supported by teaching assistants. Mr. Slavin said that the budget specifies additional paid positions for this purpose. The department can support Ph.D. students only after they have passed qualifying exams, and so students need support for the first two years. Mr. Grossman asked what they would do as teaching assistants. Mr. Slavin explained that they would teach the labs, which will be very useful, and they would do grading, which is a lot of work. Ms. Lombardo commented that if the role of the Assembly is to see how new programs can benefit the CAS, she believes that this program is very beneficial. Mr. Dvir asked for clarification concerning the level of support for teaching assistants. Mr. Khain clarified that there would be three TAs in the first year and three or four in the second year. Ms. Moore said that more TAs in Physics are definitely needed, and in the other science departments as well. TAs will generate credit hours for the department. Mr. Slavin ended his presentation by saying that with this Ph.D. program they expect to get excellent students who will come to their department to work with particular people.

III. College Update

- Ms. Moore reminded Assembly members of the upcoming 'Brother Mine' event (February 17, 7 p.m., OC Banquet Room).
- Ms. Moore provided information regarding the winter 2011 enrollment numbers for graduate students, which show a slight decrease of 4%. Serious attention is being given to graduate enrollment now, and the graduate programs need to be nourished. There are now enrollment goals for programs. She said that it is important to follow up on students who express interest in doing graduate work. As far as undergraduate enrollment is concerned, the CAS continues to grow. Mr. Ogunyemi asked whether the trends toward decline in graduate enrollment had to do with the economy. Ms. Moore said that they do because businesses are not paying as much as they used to for graduate programs for their employees.

- Ms. Moore provided an update on the faculty searches, which she indicated are going well, observing that there is significant rejuvenation taking place.
- Mr. Stewart said that the COI has cancelled meetings for lack of business. They are beginning to see proposals for exploratory sets, and the proposals that departments have submitted so far are very exciting. He encouraged departments to work on this and to look at interdisciplinary exploratory sets as well.

IV. Good and Welfare

Mr. Dvir expressed his concern about the situation in his department resulting from the recent incentive retirement and buyout options. Ms. Moore said that it is actually a nice opportunity for some faculty members, and these people will be replaced if they take advantage of the opportunity. Good organizations do this regularly.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven