

ASSEMBLY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Meeting of December 9, 2003
Minutes

Attendance

Present: Anderson, Baillargeon, D. Berven, Bull, Downing, Eberwein, Grossman, Kusow, Meehan, Miller, Mitchell, Moran, Osthaus, Rieger, Rigstad, Rosenthal, Roth, Schweitzer, Spencer-Wood, Tsui, Wendell, Wood, Zeng.

Absent: K. Berven, Hay, Lilliston, Piskulich, Schochetman, Stamps.

Call to Order 3:35 p.m.

Dean Downing welcomed the Assembly members and thanked them for the good attendance despite the inconvenient time of year. Despite exams and papers, however, there are items of governance that require the Assembly's attention.

1) Secretary's report: The following corrections were noted to the minutes of October 21: Downing's name should have been included in the attendance report as "absent," and on the last page, the phrase "Undergraduate Handbook" should be replaced with "Undergraduate Catalogue." It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Moran, to approve the minutes with the noted corrections, unanimously approved.

2) Election of a winter term substitute for Jane Eberwein on the Executive Committee: Since Eberwein will be on sabbatical, a replacement must be chosen from the area of Languages and Literatures. It was noted that the ballot mistakenly listed Jo Reger as eligible, although she is in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The correct name should have been Ingrid Rieger, of Modern Languages and Literatures. New ballots were provided, and the vote taken. Result: Dikka Berven was elected.

3) Budget: There will be a retreat to discuss budget issues on Jan. 6, 2004. The news is not encouraging, but is less discouraging than last year's. As of the morning of Dec. 9, 2003, Governor Granholm was still aiming for a 6% reduction in the budget for higher education, and we are planning on that basis. We will probably be able to recover 4% from increased tuition and fees, and will need to cover the remaining 2% with budget cuts. Non-instructional areas will be cut by 2.3%, instructional areas by either 1% or 0.75%. The university's instructional base budget is \$20,759,000, and its non-instructional base \$4,700,000. Academic Affairs has targeted \$246,000 for reduction from budgets. In this case, the College of Arts and Sciences is fortunate to account for less than 50% of that budget. If we need to reach about 45% of the Academic Affairs target, we will need to cut about \$111,000 from our instructional budget, and \$104 from non-instructional. We may have to lose parts of salaries (e.g., reduced work loads, phased retirements), but not entire faculty lines.

4) Secondary Education Certification Programs, update: David Downing has discussed our concerns on this subject with the provost and with Dean Otto of SEHS. So far, CAS and SEHS appear to be at an impasse. The School of Education believes that it is allowed to move in the direction of granting teacher certification without input from the College. Provost Moudgil will schedule a meeting for himself, Dean Otto and Dean Downing to discuss this dispute together and to seek a resolution.

Wood noted that Dyanne Tracy recently contacted the Department of Art and Art History about a planned program for certification in art education, and that Tracy had a productive meeting with Professors Eis and Wood to discuss these plans. This would seem to be a step in the right direction, from the CAS's viewpoint.

Grossman suggested that the meeting with the provost and Dean Otto should also include Associate Dean Wiggins, who is in charge of certification programs in the SEHS.

Wiggins is amenable to cooperation with the College.

Miller noted that the SEHS will soon be undergoing a review for NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education), and suspects that they may want the College to do the bulk of the work for them. In the last NCATE review, CAS was asked to provide all the information about program content. Miller adds that she has requested information about requirements for the MAT (Masters of Arts in Teaching) program and received no response. She has learned second-hand, from students in the program, that no research papers are required, and that SEHS accepts courses as fulfilling certain areas that the Department of History would not recognize – e.g., courses in Latin American history are accepted toward requirements in American history.

Moran inquired rhetorically whether the SEHS is “bargaining in bad faith.”

Grossman offered the opinion that “bad faith” in this case is a euphemism.

5) General Education: The task force's document has evolved over the last two to three years. We will need to consider its impact on the CAS, particularly regarding demands on laboratory facilities, etc. Dean Downing approves of some of the changes, like the inclusion of advanced “capstone courses” into general education, rather than a focus strictly on introductory level classes. In view of the proposed changes, the CAS may wish to make some changes to its distribution requirements. Downing invited input from the members of the Assembly on this subject.

Grossman suggested that such discussions should more properly begin in the Committee on Instruction. Since many students have tight programs, we should not add to the number of required credits.

Moran asked whether our philosophy of education has changed, and if not, why change our distribution requirements? He inquired when these requirements were last changed, and why. Dean Downing responded that the most recent change was the decision about 10 years ago to allow students to substitute an approved interdisciplinary course for a course in one of the distribution areas.

Eberwein pointed out that until the Senate's General Education committee has approved specific courses to meet the requirements of the new program, we do not have enough information to make decisions about our own requirements. Elements like the “capstone” have still not been clearly articulated. The CAS should probably wait until we know what courses will satisfy General Education before modifying our own requirements.

Miller agreed, and remarked that she has heard conflicting accounts from committee members about what sorts of courses will be chosen to satisfy general education requirements.

Grossman pointed out that the task force's statement says that "most" courses on the current list will also satisfy the new categories. Since we will need to decide on catalogue copy some time before the new system goes into effect, we cannot afford to wait too long .

Moran observed that although the new contract prohibits administrators from participating in faculty committees except *ex officio*, an administrator is still participating on the Committee on Instruction as a voting member. Dean Downing promised to look into the situation.

Grossman noted that the Senate has not yet had the opportunity to discuss the general education proposal in detail. He fears that the proposal may be approved with too little thought or substantive debate.

Spencer-Wood asked whether the integration of "knowledge areas" and "skills" has now been accomplished.

Downing replied that in the current statement, the relationship of these areas is still "amorphous." The wording seems to indicate that "skills" will not be taught as independent courses; instead, courses in the knowledge areas are expected to integrate the desired skills into their curricula.

Grossman observed that during an earlier review of general education, former Dean Copenhaver delivered an eloquent defense of the existing general education system, which he suggested that Dean Downing should emulate.

6) Good and Welfare: The College of Arts and Sciences will hold its annual holiday reception on December 16, 2:00 p.m. in the CAS offices. Assembly members are assured that refreshments will be provided by contributions from members of the dean's office, and not from general funds.

There being no further cause for either sorrow or rejoicing, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Wood, December 10, 2003.