

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ASSEMBLY

Minutes

Meeting of 5 April 2005

Rooms 128-30 Oakland Center

Attendance

Present: *Wallis Andersen, Linda Benson, Ferman Chavez, Jane Eberwein, Dick Goody, Jerrold Grossman, Jeffrey Insko, Jennifer Law-Sullivan, George Martins, Don Matthews, Jude Nixon, Carl Osthaus, Joe Shively, Richard Stamps, Susan Wood*

Absent: *Keith Berven, Curt Chipman, Arik Dvir, Mary Eberly, Abdi Kuso, Lawrence Lilliston, Emmett Lombard, Jo Reger, Mark Rigstad, Sam Rosenthal, Irwin Schochetman, Linda Schweitzer*

Ex Officio Present: *Kathy Moore, Michelle Piskulich*

Guests present: *Alex Ruthmann, Jackie Wiggins*

1. Call to Order

Associate Dean Piskulich convened the meeting at 3:40.

2. Resolution thanking Dean Downing

Resolved that the College of Arts and Sciences Assembly thanks David J. Downing for his valuable contributions to the College and the University during his tenure as associate dean, interim dean, dean, and interim provost, and wishes him well in his future endeavors. (Jerrold Grossman; support, Susan Wood). Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of February 15, 2005.

Moved to approve the minutes from February 15, 2005 (Richard Stamps; support, Linda Benson). Approved unanimously as presented.

4. Center for Applied Research in Musical Understanding (CARMU). Information item.

Joe Shively and Jackie Wiggins described CARMU as a “structural umbrella” which will provide a “brand mark” for what the Music Education program is doing; the two-page proposal description as circulated to Assembly members describes CARMU’s mission, goals, and organization. For now, the expenses will be limited to appropriate letterhead. Members of the Assembly expressed strong support for the concept after being assured that the “Center” terminology is acceptable to OU administration. Members of the Assembly recommended that the music program consider creating a budget structure (to prepare for potential future needs, possibly even to fit in the Capital Campaign) and identifying CARMU’s physical location with a nameplate.

5. Budget Update

Although changes are not final, the state agreement probably means a one-year cut for this FY of approximately 2% (\$850,000) put into effect at the end of the FY. The current plan is for the College to absorb its portion of the cut outside of the academic units. After next year the cut will become a permanent cut to base unless the economy improves significantly (and that is not anticipated). The Board has been reluctant to approve tuition increases, but increases are being considered. In response to concern about whether OU should continue to increase its student body size, Associate Dean Piskulich noted that current growth has enabled OU to manage recent budget cuts somewhat successfully, with more tuition to offset loss of revenue from state. Also of concern to Assembly members is what appears like dishonesty in our ads claiming “small classes” since class sizes are increasing. Further, if the student body pool is to grow, will this be by lowering academic standards, and bringing in students who require more remedial

support? Yet another concern is that students are currently being closed out of classes that they need.

6. Environmental Theme Speakers

The CAS Theme Committee provided a document showing events planned around the “Environmental Exploration” theme for 2005-06. Associate Dean Piskulich noted that the prior two years’ theme activities have been quite successful, providing rewarding ways for departments and programs to work together across the College.

7. General Education

The new General Education catalog copy is still in draft form. The Web site for General Education is under development (it was up but has been pulled due to some inconsistencies), and will be going back up soon. Associate Dean Piskulich will e-mail the Assembly when it is available. The Web site will be student-friendly. Once the Web site is up, departments should examine it carefully for accuracy.

Department-level advisers’ training is scheduled 1-3 on April 18. The professional advisers found this training valuable for the “nuts and bolts.”

8. The Fall Assembly meeting dates were listed on the Agenda:

September 20, 2005

October 18, 2005

November 15, 2005

December 6, 2005

Ordinarily, the Executive Committee will meet the prior week.

9. Good and Welfare

Andrea Eis was honored on Monday April 4 with the 2005 Phyllis Law Googasian Award for her work in establishing the Women’s Studies Film Festival.

The General Education Committee and the Assessment Committee are sponsoring an Embedded Assessment workshop on April 12, facilitated by Linda Suskie. The form to register for either the morning (9-12) or afternoon (1-4) session is on the OIRA Web site. RSVP date is April 8.

Associate Dean Moore announced that Meeting of the Minds has 180-190 presentations scheduled, with around 400 registered. OU faculty who have students presenting may be asked to moderate some of the sessions.

Moved to thank Walli Andersen for her years of service as secretary. (Jane Eberwein; support, Susan Wood). Approved unanimously.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40.