

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Open Assembly Meeting  
October 16, 2007 at 3:30 P.M.  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center**

**Members present:** *Mary Ann Bednarski, Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Peter Binkert, Brian Connery, Henri Gooren, Kevin Grimm, Lisa Levinson, Emmett Lombard, George Martins, Fritz McDonald, Lynn Neely, Lori Ostergaard, Aldona Pobutsky, Darrell Schmidt, Linda Schweitzer, Mark Severson, Richard Stamps, George Stoffan, Vagner Whitehead, Susan Wood, Shuishan Yu, Martha Zingo*

**Ex Officio present:** *Ron Sudol, Kathy Moore, Michelle Piskulich*

**1. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2007 meeting were approved.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

Dean Ron Sudol provided the welcoming remarks, and introduced several special guests who were present, including Bonnie Abiko (Professor Emerita, Art and Art History), Gail Haynes (Member, College Advisory Board) and Bill Goldenberg (Chair, College Advisory Board).

**3. Advisory Board Welcome**

Mr. Bill Goldenberg (Chair, College Advisory Board) officially welcomed Dean Ron Sudol to his position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and warmly expressed his excitement about the direction of the College in the next few years.

**4. State of the College of Arts and Sciences**

Dean Ron Sudol updated the Assembly on the state of the College of Arts and Sciences. He proposes a strategy that focuses on three important goals in order to create a clearer identity for the Collegewithin the university:

- *provide foundations through its curriculum to the entire university;*
- *concentrate on creative endeavors, such as research and other projects coming from creative and imaginative endeavors between faculty and students, in order to help students compete globally upon their graduation;*
- *focus on intentional learning, by emphasizing the need of faculty members in the College to assume responsibility for student learning outcomes.*

For these goals, there are several structural elements, such as:

- *improve and expand the quality of student writing across the curriculum;*
- *expand International Studies;*
- *eliminate the 'undecided' student category, bolster interdepartmental and entrepreneurial studies, and pave the way for a BA in Liberal Studies.*

Concerning these goals and strategies, Dean Sudol emphasized that the College needs to improve and greatly expand the quality of student writing, for which great challenges exist. RHT 150/160 should be the best courses in the university in order to improve the freshman experience. Marshall Kitchens (Rhetoric) will be heading up the effort to expand student writing across the curriculum. The Joan Rosen Writing Center has provided great service to the university community since its opening, and registered 4000 contacts by students, faculty and members of the community in the last year alone. Dean Sudol would like to develop a writing certificate based upon evaluating a student's capability to write professionally and academically. This certificate would be noted on the diploma.

The College will expand International Studies through more publicity, an active faculty network and executive committee.

There are 1000 'undecided' students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Sudol would like to replace this designation by the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies (not to be confused with the Bachelor in General Studies). Interdepartmental efforts leading to the Liberal Studies degree may be a way of restoring the excitement of the 'explorations' courses that alumni remember today as their best experiences at Oakland University.

Dean Sudol provided the Assembly with colorful graphics that visually expressed some of the statistical differences between the College and the professional schools at OU. Based upon student credit hours, the College represents 65% of the total credit hours delivered at OU. And yet, the university is set up as if the College and the professional schools are the same. He plans to address this situation. Also, 50% of courses in the College are taught by part-time faculty members. By 2020 the aim is for 75% of courses to be taught by full-time faculty members. As far as enrollment and growth, the College is growing. The number of majors is increasing.

Dean Sudol also discussed the plan to expand Environmental Studies.

He pointed to the potential for involvement of the College of Arts and Sciences with the new Medical School. And lastly, he addressed the serious space problems that exist on campus in several departments (notably the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, and the Studio Art program in the Department of Art and Art History), pointing out that solutions that are being sought.

## **5. Open Forum**

A question/answer period followed during which time Dean Sudol fielded questions from faculty members concerning growth, space issues, tuition increases, the Medical School, and other topics.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven

