

College of Arts and Sciences
MEETING OF THE ALL-COLLEGE ASSEMBLY
October 21, 2008
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

MINUTES

Members present: Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Christopher Clason, Natalie Cole, Brian Connery, Susan Evans, Henri Gooren, Jerrold Grossman, Nesson Kerrigan, Roger Larocca, Lisa Levinson, Barbara Mabee, Fritz McDonald, Jude Nixon, Lori Ostergaard, Dean Purcell, Lakshmi Raman, Richard Stamps, George Stoffan, Jeff Youngquist

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

1. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the September 30, 2008, meeting were approved (motion made by Christopher Clason, support by Fritz McDonald).

2. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Sudol welcomed faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences to the annual Meeting of the All-College Assembly. He introduced the new staff members in the CAS office: Steve Meyer (assistant dean of Budget), Sandy Dykstra (assistant dean for Curriculum and Information) and Kristen Clark (coordinator for Donor Relations and Stewardship). A search is in progress for a new director of Advising.

3. Presentation of the Marian P. Wilson Award

Dean Sudol introduced the chair of the Marian P. Wilson Award Committee, Carl Osthaus, who made the presentation. Mr. Osthaus explained that this award was created to honor a faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences for a meritorious book or article. He was pleased to announce the recipient of the Marian P. Wilson Award for 2008: Jan Schimmelman (Department of Art and Art History) for her book entitled *The Tintype in America, 1866-1880*. Ms. Schimmelman accepted the award to an enthusiastic round of applause.

4. State of the College Address

Dean Sudol distributed fact sheets with CAS trends, highlighting certain features such as:

- CAS majors are ahead of university majors overall.
- CAS graduate student enrollment is down a little, but remains the second highest in the university. The dip in enrollments could be due to the rising costs of graduate studies.
- The CAS is doing well in terms of grants.
- There are new programs in twelve departments of the CAS.

- The CAS got fewer faculty positions in 2008 because of the state economy issues. Forty-seven positions were requested, but only 15 have been approved so far. There is a possibility that additional positions may be approved in the near future.
- The CAS 2008-2009 theme is “Cities,” with the first event taking place on October 23 in which mayors or city managers in four municipalities in Michigan (Bay City, Pontiac, Utica and Warren) will participate in a panel discussion on the administration of their cities.
- With regard to the Strategic Plan of the university, this year’s focus should be on creativity and helping students to be more creative in their thinking.
- There will be a big push to help students have international study experiences, and there is more financial aid available now for this purpose than there has been in the past.
- The writing program at OU has had a long evolutionary history up to the present time when Rhetoric has now separated from the previous Department of Rhetoric, Communications and Journalism, and become its own department. The new Department of Writing and Rhetoric will spearhead writing across the curriculum and work closely with the Writing Center.
- The social work (BSW) program already has 104 majors. A related Master of Social Work, a partnership with MSU, will begin soon on campus.
- The Psychology Department is proposing a new Master’s degree.
- In the Arts and Humanities, there are four new endowed scholarships to promote study abroad.
- The Studio Art program has had a tremendous expansion but suffers from severe space shortage.
- The new Gen Ed Ethics course in the Philosophy Department has been very successful.
- The English Department is expanding a Creative Writing Degree in Film Studies.
- The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has added a major in Japanese and is searching for a tenure-track faculty member in Chinese. Arabic presently has a two-year program, and there are plans to add Hebrew language classes.
- There will be a new Master’s degree in Communication soon.
- In the natural sciences and math area, the Center for Biomedical Research has been revived. The center will assist in helping faculty members get grants.
- University infrastructure will be improved with money coming in from tuition increases.
- There have been many space problems on campus. As a result, the departments of English and Writing and Rhetoric will soon be moving to O’Dowd Hall. Modern Languages and Literatures will probably move there in a year or two as well. Wilson Hall will eventually be transformed into an administrative center.
- There is a new Performing Arts Center in the works. Also, there is a good prospect for collaboration between the Department of Art and Art History and the city of Rochester for a satellite art gallery which would triple the size of the present art gallery space on campus. Rochester is excited about OU having a presence in town, but this project will depend on the success of fund-raising.

- The Medical School has been progressing quickly. There is a new Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Folberg, who is laying plans for accreditation. He plans to have one department in the Medical School, which will be called the Department of Biomedical Science. The Medical School will be a generalist medical school, and its curriculum will be a competency-based hybrid of basic science and integrated studies. There will be capstone courses with mini-theses that will involve students working with CAS faculty members from a variety of departments. Dean Folberg wants to create a medical learning community, and plans a vigorous program of professional development for Beaumont doctors.
- The CAS is proposing a B.A. in Liberal Studies as a counterpart to the M.A. in Liberal Studies. It is hoped that students in the ‘undecided’ category will choose this B.A.
- We need a better structure for interdisciplinary studies (such as Women’s Studies, for example).
- An ad hoc committee is being created to study distribution requirements (do we still need distribution requirements, and, if so, what should they be?).
- The CAS is 65% of the university, with at least one-third or one-half of the curriculum of every student at OU including courses within the CAS.

There was a question/answer period following Dean Sudol’s State of the College address:

Question (Christopher Clason, Modern Languages and Literatures): Is there a possibility that there will be more positions allocated this year?

Dean Sudol: It is hoped that the situation will loosen up a bit.

Question: Where will the graduate studies office go?

Dean Sudol: There is no answer to that yet.

Question (Jude Nixon, Honors College): Jude Nixon observed that the English department and Department of Modern Languages and Literatures collaborated on a Romanticism Conference, held recently on campus and in the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, and he asked for a brief report. Christopher Clason, one of the organizers of the Conference, reported that the conference went very well. The Royal Park Hotel was an excellent venue, and everyone was impressed with the hotel, the Oakland Center and Meadowbrook Hall. He expressed his appreciation to the other organizers of the conference, and deemed the event a great success. Dean Sudol indicated that there is a plan to make the Royal Park Hotel the official OU convention center.

Question (Jerry Grossman, Mathematics): Should we be lining ourselves up for a presidential debate in the future?

Dean Sudol: This could be a possibility for the next presidential election, particularly if the new performing arts center is built. The presidential debates require well-equipped venues because of all the special requirements.

Question: Is a bus system possible around the campus and the local area?

Answer: Richard Stamps indicated that the SMART bus people were on campus to work on this.

Question (Jay Meehan, Sociology): In reference to OU’s Risk Management program, are we moving in a good direction? It seems there is a stranglehold with speakers, software, etc., due to the bureaucracy issues that have come up recently.

Dean Sudol: It is difficult to be risk averse, as the university wants to be, and also entrepreneurial, since entrepreneurial work is by nature risk-taking. OU is big and diverse, and it is difficult to ease the bureaucratic obstacles. However, this matter should be discussed. There are many factors to be worked through when it comes to risk management.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven