

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly
Tuesday, September 25, 2007
Auditorium, Elliott Hall**

MINUTES

Members present: *Mary Ann Bednarski, Getnet Bekele, Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Brian Connery, Mary Eberly-Lewis, Henri Gooren, Kevin Grimm, Fay Hansen, Lisa Levinson, Emmett Lombard, George Martins, Fritz McDonald, Lynn Neely, Jude Nixon, Lori Ostergaard, Darrell Schmidt, Mark Severson, Anna Spagnuolo, Richard Stamps, George Stoffan, Shuishan Yu, Vagner Whitehead,*
Ex Officio present: *Ron Sudol, Kathy Moore, Michelle Piskulich*
Guest: *Jan Elvekrog*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M.

1. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting were approved.

2. Appointment of Secretary and Parliamentarian

Dikka Berven (*French*) was appointed recording secretary, and Martha Zingo (*Political Science*) was appointed parliamentarian.

3. Election to the Executive Committee

Chris Clason, chair of the Elections Committee, conducted the election. The following members were elected to the Executive Committee:

George Stoffan, *Music* (Humanities)
Kevin Grimm, *English* (Language/Literature)
Keith Berven, *Biology* (Mathematics/Science)
Mary Eberly-Lewis, *Psychology* (Social Sciences)

Continuing Member: Mark Severson, *Chemistry* (At Large).

4. Approval of recommended members for Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) 2007-2009

Motion to approve the following members and the *chair* for the GSC was moved by Emmett Lombard and seconded by Richard Stamps; members were approved:

Keith Williams, *Psychology* (Social Science)
Deborah Blair, *Music* (Humanities)
Bradley Roth, *Physics* (Mathematics/Science)

Chair for Graduate Studies Committee: Pat Piskulich

Continuing members:

Natalie Cole, *English* (Language/Literature)

Fiki Shillor, *Mathematics* (At-Large)

Pat Piskulich, *Political Science* (At-Large)

5. Approval of recommended members for the Committee on Instruction (COI) 2007-2009

Motion to approve the following members and the *chair* for the COI was made by Jude Nixon and seconded by Keith Berven; the following members were approved:

Stephen Filler, *Japanese* (At-Large)

Niels Herold, *English* (At-Large)

Cynthia Sifonis, *Psychology* (Social Sciences)

Chair for Committee on Instruction: Valerie Palmer-Mehta

Continuing members:

Rebecca Gaydos, *Linguistics* (Language/Literature)

Valerie Palmer-Mehta, *Communication* (Humanities)

Linda Schweitzer, *Chemistry* (Mathematics/Science)

6. Approval of recommended member for the Elections Committee 2007-2010

Motion to approve the new member and *chair* for the Elections Committee was made by Richard Stamps and seconded by Mary Eberly-Lewis):

Wen Zhang, *Mathematics* (Mathematics/Science)

Continuing members:

Chris Clason, *German* 2005-2008 (Language/Literature)

Alice Horning, *Rhetoric* 2006-2009 (Humanities)

7. College Updates

I. Associate Dean Kathy Moore provided updates on the Medical School, Meeting of Minds (MOM) and STEP.

Medical School: Associate Dean Moore is on the CAS Steering Committee. She reported that it is a slow process, with a goal of the first class ready to begin three years from this fall. There are five subcommittees, and gradually faculty members are becoming part of these committees. The Medical School is an opportunity to strengthen CAS initiatives. Richard Stamps asked where the Medical School will be placed. Associate Dean Moore indicated that in the long term, there will be a building. Stamps suggested that the Campus Environment and Development Committee should be consulted. Associate Dean Moore agreed that this was a good idea. She pointed out that the Medical Dean's office, for example, will need to be identified as soon as possible. Department chairpersons have been asked to think of ways in which their department can interact with the Medical School,

focusing on the art and science of medicine. All departments but English, Linguistics and Biology have responded. The Medical School is seen as an opportunity for creative electives and enrichment courses across the CAS.

Meeting of Minds (MOM): Oakland University will be hosting the 16th annual MOM conference this year on May 16, 2007. Associate Dean Moore will put out a call for faculty and students to host the event. South Foundation Hall has been updated with the appropriate technologies for such an event as this, and will be the location of all of the presentations. Multiple poster sessions will be held in the new section of the OC.

STEP: The STEP (Secondary Teacher Education Program) Council has met. There are three K-12 programs now: Music Education (long-standing), Studio Art Education, and the recent conversion of Modern Languages to K-12.

Approvals: CAS is waiting for approval for the Social Studies RX endorsement program at the secondary level (associated with History).

II. **Associate Dean Michelle Piskulich** provided updates on the Advising Office, the Continuing Education program, and the China Initiative.

Advising Office: Associate Dean Piskulich reported that there have been many changes in the Advising Office, and many issues have been resolved.. All OU forms are now available on CAS Advising website. Every checklist for every major is available online, and students can pull them up. There is a 'Frequently Asked Questions for 'CAS/ADV' page, and questions are answered within 24 hours, often on the same day. There are links to other departments in the CAS. There have been 15,000 hits so far on the OU Homepage for this website, including 1000 in August 2007 alone. Another service long offered by advisers to seniors is degree audits for *all* CAS students. CAS would like to see students take advantage of this more frequently—but certainly when they reach senior status (91 credits). 3300 students were invited to request an audit -- 95 responded -- so more students need to do this. This process is all done online. Further advising improvements: there has been 100% success answering phone calls and responding to walk-ins. She reminded members that all of the advisers advise all majors.

Continuing Education: Associate Dean Piskulich indicated that ideas are welcome. These are for-profit enterprises. Adult ed, professional development, for example. The revenue from these initiatives comes back to the unit.

China Initiative: CAS is starting to document everything we do that has to do with China. There is, for instance, a new interest in developing curricula in Chinese for the schools in Oakland County. L. Brooks Patterson (County Executive) has announced that he wants Chinese in the schools, and there will soon be a meeting with him on the subject.

III. **Dean Ron Sudol** provided updates/overview on the CAS. He observed that the CAS constitution requires one *open* meeting per year, and thus the CAS assembly meeting in October, 2007 will be designated as such, and the invitation extended.

New Chairs and new faculty members in the CAS: Dean Sudol reported that there are three new chairs in the CAS: Susan Hawkins (English), Paul Kubicek (Political Science), and Sam Rosenthal (Linguistics). There are 23 new faculty members in the CAS. Meet and greet lunches at Meadowbrook Hall are on-going with the deans for the new faculty members.

Distinguished alumnus Regina Carter: Regina Carter (jazz violinist) is now a member of the CAS faculty, as Artist in Residence. Ms. Carter is a MacArthur grant recipient and renowned jazz performer. She has already spent some time on campus, and will be spending two weeks on campus, first in October and again in the winter semester, giving master classes, and working with students and faculty. Eventually, she will perform in a recital at OU. Dean Sudol reported that he had had the opportunity to hear her perform at the Birdland Jazz festival in New York City, and he expressed his excitement about her appointment.

New programs in the CAS: New programs in the CAS this year include the International Relations major in the Department of Political Science, the new Bachelor of Social Work program in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, the Engineering Biology program offered jointly by the Department of Biological Sciences and the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree programs in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Development/Fund-raising: Dean Sudol reported that there are some solutions in the works for relieving space issues in the performing arts (details to follow at a later date). Also, the studio art program needs space in Wilson Hall—where there is extreme over-crowding, and solutions are being sought.

Among other important areas of development are the Judaic Studies and Islamic Studies, for which there are promising partnerships also in the works.

CAS/Committee representation: Dean Sudol stressed the importance of good representation on university committees. The CAS is 65% of the university, and yet it is sometimes under-represented on committees. UCUI, for example, has only one representative from the CAS, and he intends to seek a better balance on this and other university committees.

Strategic Plan Overview: The CAS is very diverse, with 15 departments and over a 100 majors. For this reason, it is more difficult for the CAS to come up with a mission statement than the Schools at OU. The CAS needs a mission statement that will give an identity and a strong sense of purpose to its activities. The challenge of preparing such a mission statement is to do this without lapsing into vague language. Dean Sudol has thus suggested a **CAS mission statement** with three conceptual points:

- 1) The role of the college is to provide foundations for the rest of the university.
- 2) Faculty members in the CAS should help students to be more creative, practice more problem-solving/thinking/research projects. We need to work on equipping students with a strong sense of creativity so that they are prepared for the working world.
- 3) Faculty members in the CAS need to distinguish between teaching and learning, and be more attentive to student learning outcomes. The quality of students' learning is the responsibility of the faculty members.

This mission statement plan has three structural points:

- 1) Bring dramatic improvement of the writing program across the university. This will involve some restructuring. Marshall Kitchens (Rhetoric) will be working on Writing Across the Curriculum. Writing courses, for instance, should be contributory to an excellent freshman experience.
- 2) Bring more elements into International Studies, and expand this to include cultural studies.
- 3) Bolster interdepartmental and entrepreneurial studies by establishing a Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, and pave the way for a BA in Liberal Studies.

Dean Sudol opened the last part of the meeting to questions and a brief discussion on admission goals and enrollment growth followed.

Good and Welfare

Associate Dean Moore reminded the new members of Assembly to report back to their departments concerning the issues brought up in the Assembly meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven