

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
Minutes November 17, 2009
Oakland Center, Oakland Room**

Members present: *D. Berven, Clason, Connery, Dvir, Estes, Fails, Farrugia, Grossman, Hawkins, Mabee, Navin, Ostergaard, Roth, Sanders, Stamps, Stoffan, Williams, Wood, Wright*

Members absent: *K. Berven, Eis, Evans, Herold, Kerrigan, Khattree, Lombardo, Purcell, Rosenthal, Schweitzer, White*

Ex-Officio present: *Stewart, Moore, Sudol*

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Dean Sudol.

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of October 20, 2009

The minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2009, were approved (moved by Jerry Grossman, seconded by Stephen Wright).

3. Proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, *second reading*

The proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies came back to the CAS for the second reading. Associate Dean Kathy Moore distributed a handout, 'Updates on Liberal Studies Proposal,' that outlined changes, clarifications and/or updates that had been made to the BALS proposal subsequent to the September discussion in the CAS Assembly meeting (see 'Updates' handout).

Jerry Grossman (Mathematics) observed that according to #5 on the 'Updates' handout, Scott Crabill had reported that his faculty council still had some concerns.

Associate Dean Moore said there were some concerns about minors outside the CAS and the role of transfer students. She indicated that it is not the intent of the BALS program to take majors. Possibly, one minor outside the CAS could be used for the BALS. Most of the minors are underutilized in any case.

Grossman pointed out that on page 25, the Library still had not corrected their figures. Richard Stamps (Anthropology) noted that the acronym title of the 'BALS' program was somewhat unsavory. Dean Sudol acknowledged that those who had been working on the proposal had gotten used to the name by now. Stamps suggested a rearrangement of the letters, such as 'LABS'. Chris Clason (Modern Languages) suggested the formation of a subcommittee to study the acronyms that are used throughout the CAS because he felt there were others that could be improved upon.

There being no further discussion, Dean Sudol called for the vote, and the BALS proposal was approved unanimously.

4. College of Arts and Sciences Exploratory Requirement (CASER)

Dean Sudol introduced the topic of the new College of Arts and Sciences Exploratory Requirement and pointed out that the Distribution requirement has been complicated. The CASER proposal before the Assembly was the result of the Distribution Committee's proposal that a student may select any 3 courses from a single rubric of their choosing, plus the Executive Committee's idea of an exploratory in which the student may complete a set of pre-defined exploratory sequences.

The motion was made to begin the discussion (moved by Richard Stamps, seconded by Barbara Mabee).

Jerry Grossman observed that there were no pre-defined exploratory sequences 'listed below,' and he wondered whether there would be a list in the Advising Office. Dean Sudol said that there would be. Susan Hawkins (English) expressed concern that having pre-defined exploratory sequences would really complicate the work of advisors. She wondered how the computer system that runs the audit of the students' records would handle this and observed that if there were three courses in one rubric, the audit would be easy. Interim Associate Dean Stewart said that when he was a student advisor, he was able to help each student construct a set of courses in order to tailor them to the student's needs. Hawkins said that some majors are already booked and there is no more room for extra courses. Stewart pointed out that the Biology Department is already exempted from the CASER. Arik Dvir (Biological Sciences) thought that the proposal seemed too complex and proposed that students should be allowed to choose their courses for this requirement without any restraint. Grossman said that there are other departments besides Biology where students would be exempt from CASER. Dikka Berven (Modern Languages) wondered whether the idea behind the CASER was about giving more depth or breadth to the students' area of study, because it seemed as if the first half of the proposal was more about depth and the second more about breadth, and it seemed like two contrary ideas. Grossman observed that having students take three courses within a single rubric was problematic because there are some departments that have more than one rubric within the department. Stamps said that perhaps there is an alternate term for the word 'rubric' that could be used. Dvir said that the CASER is very broad, and so he reiterated his suggestion that the students should be able to choose whatever they want to take for this requirement. Dean Sudol said that there has to be some kind of a prescription, and it was thought that the groupings would be more exciting to students. It would be more than just something extra to slog through. In BIS they can pick any courses—it works for non-traditional students. But that is not the College of Arts and Sciences. Grossman asked whether anyone could come up with an argument against doing away with a distribution requirement altogether. Dean Sudol said that these three courses are something that sets the CAS apart from the professional schools. Grossman said that the argument seems to be that there is space left over, so let's use it. Stamps pointed out that if you left it open, they would be able to take electives. Stewart said that the pre-defined sequences would give logic to their electives. Stamps opened up the possibility of having a third option to the CASER: the students choose their own three electives. Stewart said that he was open to that. Hawkins wondered if students choose the three courses in the same rubric, should not at least one of these courses be at the 200-level. Sandy Dykstra said that this is not in the catalog copy. Grossman said that he was

not in favor of that because the level of a course does not necessarily mean that it is less demanding. The question was asked whether it would be possible to make any changes before the catalog copy is finalized. Dean Sudol said that rewriting can be done before January. He asked Parliamentarian Grossman to clarify whether the CASER would simply be an information item at the Senate. Grossman said that it is a CAS matter, and would not go to the Senate.

Dean Sudol told the Assembly that he wanted to consult with Andrea Eis and Keith Berven, neither of whom was able to be present at the meeting, who had expressed concerns to him about the alteration to their Distribution Committee's proposal that the requirement should be three courses within the same rubric. He distributed a letter that he had received from Andrea Eis, expressing her objections about the 'pre-defined exploratory sets' that had been added to her committee's original proposal. Eis asked the Assembly to consider the CASER as originally proposed by the ad hoc Distribution Committee, and then take up the idea of the 'pre-defined exploratory sets' at a later date. Dean Sudol also distributed a letter of support from Lori Ostergaard (Writing and Rhetoric), who had put together a list of courses that could potentially be used by Writing and Rhetoric majors to fit into the 'pre-defined exploratory' sets.

Grossman suggested that it would be a good idea to talk to the Chief Advisor of the CAS to see what impact this would have on him/her.

Dean Sudol suggested that if anyone had any ideas or suggestions, they should send them as soon as possible to Interim Associate Dean Stewart.

5. College Update

Dean Sudol announced that there are additional faculty lines, and the hiring situation was loosened up to include twelve or thirteen positions. This is a bit less than previous years, but it is not too bad considering the economy. He pointed out that although the economic situation in the state of Michigan is in pretty bad shape, Oakland University is in relatively good shape compared with some other universities that are having 25% give-backs, furlough days, and so on.

6. Good and Welfare

There were no items for Good and Welfare.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven