

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Assembly Meeting  
Minutes March 17, 2009  
Elliott Hall Room**

**Members present:** Bekele, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cayanus, Clason, Cole, Eis, Gooren, Grossman, Hansen, Khain, Larocca, Levinson, Mabee, McDonald, McGinnis, Miller, Ostergaard, Purcell, Spagnuolo, Stoffan.

**Members absent:** Dvir, Raman, Nixon, Downing, Kerrigan, Evans, Machmut-Jhashi, Zingo

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

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM by Dean Ron Sudol. He welcomed Interim Associate Dean Robby Stewart to the meeting.

**2. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting were approved (motion made by Chris Clason, approved by Keith Berven).

**3. NCA Self-Study Report**

Millie Merz (Kresge Library) was present to provide a summary on behalf of the committee that prepared the Self-Study Report. She noted that the NCA team would be on campus April 6-8, 2009. The visitors will be headquartered on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Science/Engineering building but will be meeting with people all over campus most of the time. The names of the nine people making up the NCA team will not be released until they are on campus, but it is known that there are three from education disciplines, several from large institutions and several from private institutions.

Ms. Merz explained that this Self-Study Report is different from the previous report ten years ago because it is criteria-based, whereas the last one was divided according to disciplines and schools. In 1989 and 1999, OU passed its accreditation but there were focused visits afterwards. The committee is aware that this could happen again.

Ms. Merz said that the Self-Study Report can be found on the university website home page. The OU Mission and Vision Statement is an important part of the study, and it can be found on the home page as well for reference. The PDF version of the Self-Study Report does not have an index, but it has a good table of contents to facilitate perusal.

Ms. Merz highlighted some of the features of the Report, such as the attention given in Chapter 3 to the recommendations made by the NCA team in 1999 concerning land use

management and facilities. Since then, OU has created a Master Plan. Also, in response to the recommendation in 1999 that there should be increased communication between faculty and administration, there is now the Faculty Recognition Lunch and the President's Colloquium. A third example is the increased attention given to university assessment, and Ms. Merz indicated that attitudes towards assessment have changed considerably in the last ten years. She recommended that OU faculty members would be particularly interested in Chapter 9 which is the summary of the Self-Study Report. She added that the Report includes two 'Request for Change' sections: (1) online programs, and (2) to establish a campus designation at Macomb. Ms. Merz then responded to questions.

***Question/Answer period:***

Chris Clason (Modern Languages and Literatures) asked if Ms. Merz's power point presentation for the Assembly could be made available online because he believes that faculty members in his department and others would be interested in seeing it. She replied that there is an 'institutional snapshot' that will be online soon.

Natalie Cole (English) asked where the academic profile is found. Ms. Merz said that it is at the end of the report.

Jerry Grossman (Mathematics) asked to what extent departments had reviewed the Self-Study Report. Ms. Merz replied that some departments participated in reviewing it. Mr. Grossman asked if departments were asked to review the document, and expressed concern because he had noticed several errors upon a first perusal. He wondered if there had been enough checks and balances. Ms. Merz said that the process did not leave enough time for as much review as they would have liked. She said that the time factor was a problem, and that three years is needed, not two years, for a project of this magnitude. Mr. Grossman said that in the future, departments should definitely be asked to review such a document.

Dikka Berven (Modern Language and Literatures) asked if the NCA visitors would be dropping in on classes. Ms. Merz indicated that they could decide to do that, and Michelle Piskulich (Associate Provost) confirmed that the team members could visit with faculty members while on campus, and pop in on any class.

Ms Merz ended by telling the Assembly that it is difficult to do a Self-Study Report using the criteria-based outline as opposed to a unit-based outline, because it seemed to be more possible to leave things out with the criteria-based system than it was in the past when the unit-based outline was used.

Dean Sudol thanked Ms. Merz for her presentation.

#### **4. M.A. in Communication**

Dean Sudol called for a motion to open the first reading. Jacob Cayanus (Communications and Journalism) made the motion, and Chris Clason seconded. Shea Howell (Communications) expressed her delight at being at this stage of completion of the proposal, and said she would be happy to answer any questions that Assembly members might have. Karen Miller asked about the estimate of the size of the initial cohort. Ms. Howell said that there would be 25 at first, and that the program would be held to 55 students. This should be a manageable number. Dean Purcell (Psychology) asked about the 3.0 GPA, and wondered if that should be a minimum. Ms. Howell said

that this GPA matched other institutions with similar Masters programs. Dean Purcell found a typo on page 30, and Ms. Howell said it would be fixed. Kellie Hay (Communication) said that comparable programs at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University also had 3.0 GPA. Lori Ostergaard asked about the job prospects for a person with an M.A. in Communications. Ms. Howell indicated that in most schools, Communications is its own school, and there is a large pool of people. Many go into civil society organizations. She expects about one third of the graduates to go on to Ph.D. programs which is an expanding market and a broad field. Lori Ostergaard pointed out that there is a course called 'Digital Cultures' that duplicates another already-existing course. Ms. Howell said that she would address that issue. When there were no further questions, Dean Sudol pointed out that there is only one more Assembly meeting left this year. Ms. Ostergaard moved to waive the second reading. The motion was seconded by Karen Miller (History). Natalie Cole (English) expressed interest in taking the proposal back to her department for discussion. Ms. Howell said that the proposal had been seen by the English department already. With 15 yes and 6 nays, the motion failed to garner the required three-quarter majority. The second reading will be at the April Assembly meeting.

## **5. Informational Item**

Dean Sudol informed the Assembly about post-Master's certificates in Criminal Justice, Leadership and Health Care Administration.

## **6. College updates**

Dean Sudol said there were no college updates.

## **7. Good and Welfare**

Dean Sudol said that there have been good results on new hires resulting from searches this year in the College.

## **8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven