

College of Arts and Sciences
All-College Assembly Meeting
October 28, 2014, Gold Room C

Members present: Andrews, Berven, D., Berven, K., Chapman, Cheng, E., Chong, Eis, Epstein, Goody, Grimm, Guest, Hansen, Hastings, LaRock, Law-Sullivan, Martic, Meehan, Rigstad, Roberts, Roth, Sanders, Srauy, Wang, Wendell

Members absent: Corso, Dulio, Miller, Pfeiffer, Purdie, Smith

Ex-officio present: Corcoran, Stewart, Hitt

I. Call to Order and Welcome

At 3:50 p.m., Dean Corcoran welcomed faculty members and called the meeting of the All-College Assembly to order.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2014, were approved (Meehan, Epstein).

III. Marian P. Wilson Award

Dean Corcoran announced that this year's winner of the Marian P. Wilson Award is Libin Rong from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Eddie Cheng accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Rong, who was unable to be present.

IV. Dean's Remarks

Dean Corcoran dedicated the remainder of the meeting providing CAS faculty members with highlights of the presentation he made to the Board of Trustees (BOT) the previous week. All OU deans will be making presentations on a rotating basis to the BOT this year, and his was the first, on behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences. The purpose of the deans' visits is to help trustees understand the academic missions of the College and the Schools and was the idea of President Hynd and Board Chair Schluskel.

In his presentation to the BOT, Mr. Corcoran said that he highlighted the three following focal areas for the CAS:

- ❖ College of Arts and Sciences as the heart and soul of the university
- ❖ Community engagement
- ❖ Student success

a) *College of Arts and Sciences as the 'heart and soul' of Oakland University:* Mr. Corcoran observed that the CAS is large and diverse, and to show this diversity he highlighted the recent accomplishments of four faculty members from across the CAS, including Professors Andrei Slavin (Distinguished Professor, Physics), Jackie Wiggins (Chair, Music, Theatre and Dance, 2014 [and inaugural] Dissertation

Advisor Award winner), Kathleen Pfeiffer (Professor and Chair, English, President's Colloquium 2014) and Meir Shillor (Professor, Mathematics and Statistics, President's Colloquium 2013).

Mr. Corcoran pointed out that the CAS is made up of 16 departments, 72 undergraduate majors, 21 Master's degrees, and 6 doctoral programs. He said there are about 300 full-time faculty members, and 350-400 part-time faculty members. The CAS delivers more credit hours by far than the other Schools on campus. He observed that a significant percentage of CAS credits are required for typical undergraduate degrees in each School, citing as examples majors in the Schools of Nursing (58%), Engineering and Computer Science (47%), Education and Human Services (43%), and Business Administration (38%).

He noted that there are some exciting new things happening, such as the fact that Oakland University will be the eventual home of the complete papers of Congressman Mike Rogers and Senate candidate Gary Peters, in collaboration with Kresge Library.

He stated that there are areas of remarkable growth within existing programs of the CAS, such as Social Work (growth is over 100% in 5 years), Biology (up 40%, with 1100 majors), Chemistry/Environmental Science (up 25%), and Psychology (up 18%). Regarding new programs, Criminal Justice (in year 3) has 350 majors, Graphic Design has 160 majors, and Cinema Studies (in year 4) has 70 majors. With reference to the topic of grants and contracts and indirect costs (F & A), Mr. Corcoran said that in the period 7/1/13-6/30/14, the CAS has 47% of the monies coming into Oakland University.

Regarding the All University Fund Drive (AUFDF), he pointed out that in 2013 there was a 45% participation rate in the CAS. CAS faculty and staff contributed about \$42,000, and Mr. Corcoran reminded faculty members present at the meeting that the President promises to match 50 cents for every dollar that they pledge to the fund drive.

b) *Community engagement*: Mr. Corcoran identified community engagement as all the things that the CAS does to serve the community, including all activities that break down the barriers that surround the campus, activities which take university talent into the community, and that bring members of the community outside the campus onto campus to take advantage of what the university can offer them. He gave the examples of the various events related to the arts, such as art exhibits, theatre, and musical and dance concerts. He mentioned the interest that has been shown in lectures, such as the Department of History's "History Comes Alive" lecture series, which is normally very well-attended and each month brings over a hundred people to campus to hear the faculty members lecture on topics related to their areas of specialty. He also mentioned the Writing and Rhetoric Department's outreach program in Pontiac. In addition, he said that the university is trying to build a sustainable relationship with the city of Pontiac, the key point of which is to work "with" them and not "for" or "to" them, in the various activities that will be planned.

c) *Student success*: Mr. Corcoran said that student success is at the core of what is done in the College of Arts and Sciences. He said that for students, memorable experiences are important, and these can be done in numerous ways such as through the creation and completion of interesting projects involving faculty members working with students, taking advantage of grant programs, and mentoring. He said that we now need to find ways of measuring student success, and identifying success indicators is a project for departments to work on. He said that one measure of success overall is the 6-year graduation rate, which is a term that applies to FTIACs, first time at any college students.

Mr. Corcoran also emphasized the skills that students gain from their liberal arts education that serve them throughout their lives, such as good communication ability, the ability to work in teams, the ability to appreciate differences, a tolerance for ambiguity, and the realization that there is more than one pathway to solutions. He said that his motto is that “a good liberal arts education will prepare you for your first job, your last job, and every job in between.” He cited two notable examples of alums who went far with their liberal arts degrees: Betty Youngblood, who majored in Southeast Asian Studies at OU and has served in university administrative capacities including Interim President of OU last year and who was recently appointed OU Vice President for Organizational Development and Strategic Planning; and former Trustee Monica Emerson, who earned a degree in French from OU back in the 1970s and who became the first woman Chief Diversity Officer of the United States Navy.

V. Updates

- Mr. Corcoran reminded faculty members that the 2015 CAS theme will be “Cracking the Code of Literacy.”
- He noted that the CAS was given two trailers, formerly the home of Facilities Management, located near the police station, to take some of the pressure off of space problems. These trailers are being used as office space for graduate students and part-time faculty members.
- He provided an update on the strategic planning process that is in progress and for which February is the month of presentation to the BOT. He said that the plan will be vetted through numerous groups on campus. Included in the plan are emphases on student success, community engagement, and research excellence at the university.

VI. Discussion

Q&A: Mr. Grossman asked if the CAS will get any of the science complex space back from Engineering’s move to its new building. Mr. Corcoran replied that he expects that the CAS will get some of it, and that a consulting firm is evaluating the space. Mr. Herold asked for an update on the Honors College, and Mr. Corcoran said that the CAS looks for collaboration opportunities between the CAS and the Honors College.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)