

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ASSEMBLY
Minutes
Meeting of October 21, 3:30 p.m., Oakland Room, Oakland Center.

Attendance:

Present: Anderson, Baillargeon, D. Berven, K. Berven, Binkert, Eberwein, Grossman, Hay, Lilliston, Meehan, Miller, Mitchell, Moran, Osthaus, Papazian, Piskulich, Rosenthal, Roth, Stamps, Wendell, Wood.

Absent: Bull, Kosow, Rieger, Rigstad, Schochetman, Schweitzer, Spencer-Wood, Tsui, Zeng.

Visiting: Awbrey, Mabee.

Call to order: 3:37 p.m. Associate Dean Mary Papazian presided in the absence of Dean Downing, who was ill.

Secretary's Report: Moved by Binkert, seconded by Stamps, to approve the minutes of Sept. 23, 2003, as submitted, unanimously approved.

General Education Task Force Update:

Papazian gave the floor to Michelle Piskulich, Susan Awbrey, and Barbara Mabee for a report on the General Education Task Force. Piskulich distributed a list of "learning outcomes" as they have been refined over the past summer, after conferences with representatives of the various areas. All chairs have received these lists and have been asked for their responses and suggestions. The Task Force is now drafting the statement that will go to the Senate for approval. The Task Force has been working closely with the Senate General Education Committee, and plans to complete the statement by December.

Discussion:

Osthaus noted that the area entitled "Global Perspective" appears to include only courses on non-Western culture. Does the Task Force intend this to be its focus? If so, that should be specified more clearly.

Piskulich confirmed that indeed "Global Perspective" was conceived as dealing with the non-Western world.

Stamps suggested that in that case the learning area should be entitled "Non-Western Perspectives," and put in the sequence immediately after "Western Civilization" in order to clarify the distinction.

Moran noted that Eastern Europe is classified under "Global Perspectives," although most Eastern Europeans probably consider themselves part of the Western tradition. He also inquired whether Latin America would be classified with Western or Non-Western culture.

Miller observed that there are a number of "gray areas" that resist categorization. Mary Karash has always argued that Latin American culture should be considered distinct from the Western traditions of North America.

Stamps urged clarification of the divisions.

Moran noted that the divisions still appear to follow the Cold War map, and observed that "International Studies" as a discipline first came into being during the Cold War.

Piskulich replied that the task force had discussed these issues, and agreed that “global perspectives” should mean more than simply “United States foreign policy.” She will take the observations from this discussion back to the task force, and invited Assembly members to e-mail any additional comments that might occur to them, either to pisculic@oakland.edu or to awbrey@oakland.edu.

Papazian noted that the Assembly is fortunate to have Piskulich as a member this year, since she can easily give us regular updates.

English as a Second Language program, endorsement

Papazian gave the floor to Peter Binkert, for a presentation about the ESL proposal. The linguistics department proposes to offer a program for teachers who have already received their teaching certification and wish additional training for dealing with students who do not speak English as their first language. The increasingly large number of such K-12 students in Oakland County motivated the proposal, copies of which were distributed to Assembly members. The program will be taught off campus, and will be the first Michigan Incentive Program entirely within the College of Arts and Sciences. Enrollment will be organized in a “cohort system,” so that the same group of students will take courses and progress through the program together. The first cohort will consist of about 30 students, and will end in the summer of 2005 with a practicum. This program should not be confused with the Hispanic Outreach program in Pontiac, which teaches English as a second language to adults; this program will prepare instructors at the K-12 levels.

Binkert then opened the floor to questions.

Grossman asked about the status of the program’s approval by the state.

Binkert replied that the Michigan Department of Education has already approved the program. Due to the bureaucratic complexities of an incentive program, it made more sense to work out a plan that would meet with state approval first, before asking for the approval of Oakland University. The reverse would have taken more time and delayed the launch of the program.

Grossman inquired if, under these circumstances, a vote by the Assembly was necessary.

Papazian explained that the Executive Committee wanted this program to have official approval from the CAS.

Miller asked what would happen if a student began the program, was forced to leave, and then wanted to re-enter. Binkert explained that such a student would have to wait for the next cohort. The first program will consist of only one cohort, in Troy, but we hope to expand the program in the future, to use additional locations and perhaps to have more than one cohort at any given time. Students who complete the requirements can also then go on to finish the final credits necessary for an MA.in Linguistics.

Grossman asked whether the Linguistic department is cooperating with the School of Education and Human Services. Binkert replied that indeed the department has had a very productive collaboration with the SEHS in developing this program.

Moved by Stamps, seconded by Anderson, to approve the proposal.

Further discussion: Grossman asked whether, as a next step, there might be a plan in the works for an ESL minor for undergraduates. Binkert replied that at the moment, budget and staffing do not allow for any additional undergraduate programs. This incentive program is not funded by Oakland University. The Linguistics department might consider instituting such a minor in the

future, but the current on-campus program addresses ESL for adults only. This incentive program is for teachers of children and teenagers.

The Assembly then voted unanimously in favor of approving the proposal.

Good and Welfare:

D. Berven expressed objections to posting the class schedule on line instead of in printed format. Wood pointed out however that the schedule of classes for Fall '03 that was printed last spring was badly out of date by the time the semester began, since the budget crisis forced cancellation of many classes and reorganization of schedules.

Papazian explained that the primary reason for the choice of on-line rather than paper publication was cost, followed by ease of updating the electronic format.

Anderson noted that the electronic format is less convenient for the students, who have to find a computer terminal to consult instead of carrying a conveniently bound list with them. The web site also does not inform students about policies like the English Department's of dropping any students from the rolls who do not attend the first class.

Moran asked whether this policy was legal, since the students have already entered into a contract with the university when they registered for the classes. Anderson replied that the policy is stated in the printed class schedule. Moran pointed out that information in the Undergraduate Handbook is contractually binding, but information in the class schedule is not. Miller noted that students have complained to her about the on-line schedule. They print out the information, but it is more unwieldy than a neatly bound booklet, and it forces them to pay for the printing. She suggests that we make some printed copies available at the registrar's office, although we do not need to mail them out to all students.

Binkert recommended giving more printing options, so that both students and faculty can print only the sections that they need, rather than everything on the web page. Papazian replied that we will ask the registrar about these possibilities.

Dikka Berven added that as things stand now, faculty cannot answer students' questions about class schedules unless there is a computer available.

Keith Berven asked whether there are any plans to publish the undergraduate catalogue *exclusively* on line. Papazian replied that there may be such plans under discussion, but that she does not know of them. She will make inquiries.

Moran argued against such a move, pointing out that the catalogue has advertising value.

Papazian agreed, but reminded the Assembly of the current budget crunch and the need to make any adjustments we can.

Grossman said that he had hoped to ask David Downing of the status of his discussions with Dean Otto of the School of Education and Human Services about their Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification program. At present, they are running this program without cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences. Grossman considers this "illegal" and thinks that the academic departments of the areas in which teachers are certified should have some input. Papazian promised to pass on his inquiry. Grossman said that he hopes to be informed of a resolution, preferably in our favor.

There being no further questions, comments or fervent wishes to express, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Wood, October 23, 2003.