The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Assembly

DRAFT
Minutes
October 15, 2014


Absent (Excused): Linda Bolton, Christopher Cheatum, Warren Darling, Michael Gibisser, Bob McMurray, Julie Pacheco, Amy Poremba, Wenfang Tang

Absent: Elena Gavruseva, Kenneth Gayley, Jon Houtman, Joni Kinsey, Marc Linderman, Tlaloc Rivas, Glenn Storey

Guests: Marc Armstrong, Jennifer Bertrand, Jonathan Burke, Raúl Curto, Helena Dettmer, Jodie Plumert, Amy Schendel, Michael Teague

1. The minutes from September 17, 2014, were approved.

2. Executive Associate Dean; Associate Dean for Faculty & Diversity, and the Natural & Mathematical Sciences Raúl Curto provided a CLAS update. He reviewed the comprehensive nature of the College and its centrality to the University’s mission. Dean Curto reported that the CLAS response to the Review Committee report was submitted to the Office of the Provost and the College expects a reply from the Provost within the next month. He noted the Transparent, Inclusive Efficiency Review (TIER) conducted by Deloitte Consulting is underway, however review of academic programs is delayed until Deloitte hires a new subcontractor to replace KH Consulting, which previously had worked on the academic portion of the review. He also discussed the Performance-Based Funding Model (PBF) approved by Board of Regents, State of Iowa, which bases state appropriations for Regent’s universities on the number of full-time undergraduate students who are Iowa residents. Under PBF, the UI would lose $13 million in state funding for FY2016. The UI is working to increase the number of students enrolled, with a goal of 420 new students (300 in CLAS) for the 2015-2016 academic year, with a final goal of 35,000 to 35,500 students enrolled within the next several years. Internally, the UI is considering funding for on-campus instruction based on students educated by each college, including number of majors and semester credit hours (SCH) taught.

3. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs & Curriculum, and the Humanities Helena Dettmer said that CLAS will pilot three-year degree programs in several majors, including Communication Studies, with additional majors under consideration. A student recruitment event, You@UI, will be held on Saturday, October 25. Over 2,400 prospective students and guests are registered, with a final count of approximately 2,700 attendees expected.
4. Associate Dean for Graduate & Online Education, and the Social Sciences Marc Armstrong noted that online education will become more important in the future. Optimization of online courses will include a de-emphasis on Guided Independent Study (GIS) courses, with a shift to other synchronous and asynchronous online delivery modes. He is working with DEOs and faculty to assist with conversion of GIS courses to other formats, with technological support from the Division of Continuing Education. He also is reviewing which courses UI students take elsewhere during summer so that CLAS might offer similar courses online, areas of study that are closest to offering an online major, online certificates, and the possibility of online degree completion programs for people with AA or AAS degrees. Regarding graduate education, Dean Armstrong is working with the Graduate College on several issues, is forming an ad hoc Graduate Education Advisory Committee for the current academic year, and is working with the graduate employee union COGS on contract talks that will occur in November. He said that a TA professional development course is underway with 15 students enrolled. In addition, he plans to meet with small groups of Directors of Graduate Studies, and work with Associate Dean Joe Kearney on new sources of revenue for graduate training.

5. Professor Michael Teague, Department of Health and Human Physiology, presented a proposal for a minor in Sport and Recreation Management (SRM), previously approved by the Undergraduate Educational Policy & Curriculum Committee. This fall the former Leisure Studies major was separated into two majors, SRM and Therapeutic Recreation, and the minor in Leisure Studies was dropped. The SRM major is very popular already, and students in other majors have requested a minor in SRM. Course capacity exists to include students in the proposed minor, and those students also will have the opportunity to participate in field experiences. The proposal was approved.

6. Professor Jodie Plumer, Chair, Department of Psychology, presented a proposal, previously approved by Executive Committee, to change the name of the department to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. She stated the decision to change the name was not made lightly, as the department is the sixth-oldest Psychology department in the nation. There are two primary reasons for the proposed name change. One is massive change in the field over the past 30 years to include non-invasive measures of brain functioning, which the department has embraced; adding Brain Sciences to the department name will reflect these teaching and research activities. The second is to allow a more accurate perception of the department by the outside, to encompass that the discipline is a multi-faceted science discipline, and not solely about clinical analysis and therapy. The proposal was approved.

7. Professor Anita Jung, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, reviewed subcommittee assignments and reminded subcommittees to meet soon to discuss plans and goals for the year.

8. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Russell Ganim, Division of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Secretary of the Faculty Assembly