The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Assembly

DRAFT
Minutes
September 17, 2014


Absent (Excused): Roxanna Curto, Erica Prussing

Absent: Armando Duarte, Elena Gavruseva, Kenneth Gayley, Ayca Kaya, Marc Linderman, Bob McMurray, Tlaloc Rivas, Wenfang Tang

Guests: Bruce Armstrong, Bruce Ayati, Jennifer Bertrand, Jonathan Burke, Kate Cowles, Anny Curtius, Kathryn Hall, Erika Lawrence, Suely Oliveira, Amy Schendel, David Stewart, Alexandra Thomas, Marian Wilson Kimber, Nicholas Yablon

1. Professor Anita Jung, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, announced that Professor Tom Simmons, Department of English, has stepped down from his position as vice chair/elect of Faculty Assembly. Per the CLAS Manual of Procedure no replacement will be made, but both a chair and vice chair/elect for 2015-2016 will need to be elected at the FA meeting in April 2015.

2. The minutes from April 23, 2014, were approved.

3. Dr. Alexandra Thomas, President of the Faculty Senate, discussed potential impacts of the performance-based funding (PBF) model approved in June by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and TIER (Transparent, Inclusive Efficiency Review), being conducted by Deloitte Consulting LLP on behalf of the Board of Regents. With PBF, the UI would lose approximately $13 million in the next fiscal year, however the Board of Regents has requested additional funding for the University from the Iowa Legislature to compensate for the potential shortfall. Dr. Thomas is hopeful the request will be approved. Phase I of TIER concluded with a broad range of issues identified, and Phase II is underway. Some administrative business cases have been approved, and others are under consideration, while the academic programs review has been delayed. A town hall meeting will be held October 9 on the UI campus regarding the remaining administrative business cases. With regard to support for The University of Iowa from the legislature, she encouraged faculty to positively engage with stakeholders, such as alumni, students, and the public, showcasing the important work they do for the state as much as possible.

4. Professor Marian Wilson Kimber, School of Music and member of the Executive Committee of the University of Iowa Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), informed the assembly that AAUP is an advocacy unit founded in...
1915, with 43,000 members and 450 campus chapters. The mission of AAUP is to defend academic freedom, to encourage and facilitate faculty participation in governance, and to protect and advance the professional status and interests of faculty. The AAUP sponsors a promotion and tenure workshop each spring and co-sponsors a workshop on promotion to full professor every few years, including one this year on October 21. She noted that faculty with concerns about promotion and tenure cases or other employment issues may contact AAUP’s Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure for advice, even if not an AAUP member. She encouraged faculty to consider joining AAUP, and provided membership forms that offer a $50 discount to new members. Regarding the performance-based funding and TIER initiatives, AAUP principles promote that faculty should make important decisions about academic missions through shared governance, rather than outside consultants, and that faculty should have a voice in budgetary changes as well.

5. Professor David Stewart, Department of Mathematics, presented a proposal for an undergraduate certificate in Large Data Analysis, previously approved by the Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee. The certificate is sponsored by Departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics & Actuarial Science and would be available to students in any major. The certificate requires 21 semester hours plus some prerequisite coursework; all courses except for the capstone course are offered currently. The certificate will provide students with expertise in handling and transfer of large data sets and understanding algorithms, and will open doors to careers and further graduate study. The proposal was approved.

6. Professor Anita Jung, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, noted that Faculty Assembly meets as a whole only seven times each academic year and suggested that additional work of the Assembly be done at the level of subcommittees. She requested that each representative volunteer to be a member of one subcommittee.

Professor Jung introduced Professor Anny Curtius, Department of French & Italian, co-chair with Professor Michael Hill, Department of English, of FA’s Diversity Committee. Professor Curtius said that the Diversity Committee is seeking members and hope to continue the conversation regarding diversity in terms of people, recruitment, retention, awareness and curriculum perspectives.

The Chair identified other possible subcommittees, including TIER review, impacts of performance-based funding, shared governance, fiscal transparency, composition and role of associate deans, role and status of lecturers, family policies, and CDA policies. Professor Juan Pablo Hourcade, Department of Computer Science, suggested an additional subcommittee to review policies for data collection and FERPA compliance. Professor Jung requested that FA members email their preferences for subcommittee assignments to Jennifer Bertrand by the end of September.

7. In response to a comment from the floor, Dr. Kathryn Hall, Senior Director of Curriculum & Academic Policy, CLAS, discussed the CLAS syllabi repository project and volunteered to send additional information to FA members via email.

8. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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