

Arts and Sciences Executive Committee

March 13, 2009

Members Present: Barbara Andersen, Kenneth Andrien, Stephanie Bernhardt, Ralph Boerner, Eric Drake, Lesley Ferris, Avner Friedman, P. Chris Hammel, Rick Herrmann, Joan Leitzel, Matthew Misicka, John Roberts, Gail Summerhill, David Sweasey, John Wenzel, Judy Wu.

Visitors: Dick Gunther (University Senate Liaison), Rich Hall (representing Matt Platz), Brad Harris, Bob Kaufman (representing Giff Weary), Rick Livingston, Ann Rottersman, Chris Zacher.

- I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks:
 - Recognition of Arts and Sciences faculty and staff who were recently highlighted in Ohio State publications.
 - The Task Force working with the Council of Deans recently added a new Centers of Excellence category—Words and Images Across Cultures and Time—to the list for consideration of Ohio State’s response to the Board of Regents.
 - Judy Wu, associate professor of history and women’s studies, and faculty affiliate to the Digital Union, presented a short video she produced titled “Washing Dishes.”

- II. University Budget:

The university recently announced that the FY 2010 annual merit compensation will include a merit pool target of 2.5% across the university. As has been recently reported in university and local media, top level university administrators are forgoing raises in recognition of our current economic challenges. The new subsidy formula adopted by the regents could provide a 9-10% increase in state funds for Ohio State if the governor’s budget is approved. However, it is important to note that much of the governor’s budget depends on one-time money from the federal bailout package.

- III. Business Process Redesign (BPR):
 - The current status of the budget redesign process was the focus for the most recent Arts and Sciences town hall meeting. Following this meeting some groups requested individual meetings which have provided an opportunity to answer questions and to address concerns.
 - A steering committee has been developed that includes two members of the Executive Committee, Ken Andrien and David Sweasey. The committee will oversee the implementation of the business process redesign and creation of business service center(s). They have held two meetings thus far and have developed a core list of roles and responsibilities for four to six work groups which will be formed to work on specific tasks associated with the business process redesign. Ken Andrien noted that the University’s Streamlining Committee has made recommendations for university-wide policy and process changes which are being rolled out between now and May. The Arts and

Sciences business process redesign will be consistent with university goals and the streamlining initiative. In fact, the Steering Committee has representatives from both the Office of Business and Finance and the Office of Human Resources to ensure that changes in Arts and Sciences are consistent with changes being implemented by the university. We anticipate that this also provides an opportunity for Arts and Sciences to be leaders in the promotion of business process changes that may benefit other areas of the university.

- Discussion focused on the need for process changes, and any implications of these changes, to be consistent with our focus on research and teaching. It was also noted that a concern for risk aversion and a diligence in following audit guidelines has led some units to incorporate increasing levels of bureaucracy. The business service center will provide a mechanism for establishing uniform policies across all Arts and Sciences units. These policies should not be excessive, but must be in compliance with our auditors

IV. Naming of Restructured Arts and Sciences:

- The provost has indicated there will be an executive dean and as many as three subunit deans in Arts and Sciences. Within this construct, Rick Livingston facilitated discussion on possible organization and potential names for a restructured College of Arts and Sciences.
- A list of suggestions Dr. Leitzel has received for the total unit was distributed: College of Arts and Sciences; College of Liberal Arts and Science; College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences; and Colleges of Arts and Sciences. Another suggestion was the College of the Arts and Sciences. There appeared to be a level of consensus that the option, The College of Arts and Sciences, was recognizable, consistent with history at Ohio State, and clear to external publics.
- Suggestions were also shared for naming the subunits including: Division, Faculty, Community, Forum, and School (it was noted Arts and Sciences already has a School of Music, a School of Communication, and a School of Earth Sciences). One member suggested a reordering of Biological, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences to reflect the level of abstraction in each discipline (Mathematical, Physical, and Biological Sciences).
- Another suggestion included not employing a collective reference, but referring to units by their actual name such as Arts and Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Biological, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences. There was considerable discussion about whether or not a collective reference was needed. It was also suggested that we need to be sensitive to possible evolutionary changes when considering naming for the subunits.

- Suggestions for titling leadership of subunits included: Theme Associate Deans (TAGs) that would identify function rather than discipline and Divisional Dean. It was noted that leadership at this level must be named so as to ensure sufficient stature when engaging equivalent positions across the university.
- The committee considered how the term “division” is used elsewhere at the university including the College of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy. Members also discussed past use of this term to define prototype departments. There was recognition that using the term to refer to the three subunits in Arts and Sciences might require a change in University Rules. Also, it was pointed out that under current rules the University Senate representation is based on each “college” having no more than seven senators so this is one other thing that will need to be changed if Arts and Sciences becomes “the College.”
- This discussion will be brought back to the Executive Committee. In the meantime, committee members are encouraged to forward additional suggestions.

V. Decision About Semesters:

- Dick Gunther reviewed recent University Senate decisions about conversion to semesters. He explained that in discussion leading up to the senate vote, faculty expressed a concern for preserving uninterrupted blocks of time for research and writing. In response to this, a mix of semesters and shorter terms has been built into the calendars that have been proposed. This mix should permit departments to build research time into yearly assignments for faculty.
- The Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) will return to the senate with a recommended calendar by the end of spring term. The model will include 65–70 instructional days. When allowing for breaks and exams this would mean a term would be approximately fifteen weeks in length.

VI. The executive dean requested agenda items for the next meeting scheduled to take place at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 10.