Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 12/08/08

Present: Cindy Juby (Chair, Social Work), Seth Brown (Psychology), Cyndi Dunn (Soc-Anth-Crim), Annette Lynch (DTGFS), Henry Owusu (Geography), Taifa Yu (Political Science), John Johnson (Interim Dean)

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved as written.

II. Presentation on proposed new Global Studies major by Konrad Sadkowski (History)

Professor Sadkowski is currently seeking the approval of the college senates for a proposed new major in Global Studies. The major is designed to provide students with an international and global perspective that combines specialization in a particular thematic area with specialization in a particular geographic area. Optional but highly recommended elements include study abroad and a Certificate in Non-Profit Management and American Humanics.

Thus far the major objection raised to the proposed major has come from Modern Languages which has argued that the language requirement should be raised from the equivalent of two years of college language study (four years of high school) to three years. The committee which has been designing this major has discussed the issue extensively and concluded that this would add too many credit hours to the length of the major. One proposed compromise would be that students who wish to satisfy the language requirement based on high school course work would be required to take a placement exam to verify that their competency is at the intermediate level.

The major currently allows students to select between 990:011 (Culture, Nature, and Society) and 970:040 (World Geography) to satisfy one of two required core courses. Senator Owusu proposed that 970:010 Human Geography be considered as a possible alternative option to satisfy this requirement. The requirement could then be fulfilled by 990:011 or 970:010 or 970:040. Professor Sadkowski said that he would consult further with Geography concerning this issue.

Senator Lynch suggested that the new Global Studies major may wish to consider having a formal Advisory Board as is currently done for the Women’s Studies program.

The senate voted unanimously to strongly endorse the creation of the proposed Global Studies major.

III. Presentation by Phil Mauceri (Political Science) on task force report on tenure and promotion procedures and criteria

This task force was put together last spring by Provost Lubker who asked them to examine criteria for tenure and promotion specifically relating to the evaluation of scholarship. The committee then also decided to examine and issue an additional report on service. It was
determined that a review of teaching standards for promotion and tenure should be done separately at a later date.

After reviewing PAC procedures from departments across campus, the committee found that there are widely varying standards and procedures across the university and the majority of departments do not provide clear and explicit criteria for evaluating faculty for tenure. Furthermore, most departments do not clearly distinguish the criteria for tenure and promotion to associate professor from the standards required for promotion to full professor.

The task force recommends that every department discuss these issues and try to come up with clear and explicit criteria for both tenure and promotion to associate professor and promotion to full professor. This discussion should include probationary as well as tenured faculty and would not necessarily have to be incorporated into official PAC procedures. The committee has provided templates of what such criteria might look like in the areas of both scholarship and service, while also recognizing that the exact criteria will necessarily vary across disciplines and departments. They are requesting that departments provide a report on this matter to their respective deans by April 1, 2009. A motion to that effect has been made in the University Faculty Senate.

There was some discussion of various aspects of the report including potential difficulties with reaching agreement upon explicit and consistent criteria given the variability of individual cases. There was also discussion of the need to appropriately recognize and evaluate grant proposals as part of scholarship. Because the presentation was for informational purposes only, no vote was required.

IV. Further update on the Academic Programs Assessment

Chair Juby announced that she had received a copy of a letter from the United Faculty Central Committee to Provost Lubker raising certain concerns about the APA process as a potential violation of AAUP standards regarding faculty governance. The letter was passed around for perusal by the senate. No further action was taken.

V. Comments by Interim Dean Johnson

Plans are proceeding for the renovation of Sabin and rehousing of various departments.

Criminology has successfully completed one faculty search. Political Science has made two offers, and Geography is currently interviewing candidates. That leaves four additional searches to be conducted this spring. The deadline for applications for replacement dean is at the end of January. We should be hearing an announcement on the provost search this week.

The budget situation continues gloomy. UNI has been required to make a reversion of $1.02 million. This has been absorbed by the central administration and has no direct budgetary impact on our college. Thus far, we are proceeding with all planned searches.
It has been confirmed that Carol Gilligan will visit the campus April 17 and 18, 2009. She will be offering a smaller seminar for graduate students and faculty on the 17\textsuperscript{th} and a public lecture on the 18\textsuperscript{th} in conjunction with the annual CSBS Student Research Conference.

The CSBS newsletter will come out in January.

The Academic Programs Assessment process is still moving ahead as planned. The Office of Institutional Research is now planning to provide much of the quantitative data directly to the second task force. It has not yet been determined whether student assessments of teaching will be included. The deadline has been moved to March 1 and graduate programs will now be included in the assessment. There was some discussion of the effects of the APA on faculty morale.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn