Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 3/2/09

Present: Cindy Juby (Chair, Social Work), Gowri Betrabet-Gulwadi (DTGFS), Henry Owusu (Geography), Charlotte Wells (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Seth Brown (Psychology), Cyndi Dunn (Soc-Anth-Crim), John Johnson (Interim Dean), Brenda Bass (Associate Dean).

I. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the 2/16/09 meeting were approved as written.

II. Curriculum Review

A. Political Science

Political Science was represented by Phil Mauceri and Ken Bascom. Political Science is proposing to add four new courses, three of which have been previously taught as experimental courses in some format. The fourth has been taught by the same faculty member at another university. They expect strong student demand for all four and are also dropping three existing courses. As a result of their student outcomes assessment, they have also decided to add a senior seminar requirement to the Political Communication major. 920:128 Law and Economics has been added as an elective for the Politics and Law minor.

The curriculum package for Political Science was unanimously approved by the senate.

B. Women’s and Gender Studies

Women’s and Gender Studies was represented by Phyllis Baker. They are proposing that an existing course, 680:040 Women’s and Gender Studies: Introduction, be added to the 5A Social Sciences category of the Liberal Arts Core.

Associate Dean Bass heads the current review committee for LAC Category 5. She noted that her committee has looked at the course and it appears to meet the objectives of Category 5.

Questions were raised about possible staffing issues and also the question of whether Women’s and Gender Studies minors might have difficulty getting into the course due to increased demand. Currently the course is offered every year and CSBS and CHFA share responsibility for staffing the course in alternate years. If increased demand becomes a problem, it is possible to reserve seats solely for minors in the program.

The senate voted to endorse the proposal to add 680:040 to category 5 of the Liberal Arts Core.

III. Academic Program Assessment Update

Dr. Baker also provided the senate with information on the current status of the APA process. Each program report will be reviewed by a three-person committee, and there will also be a separate liaison between the department and the review committee. A draft of the committee’s
IV. Comments from Interim Dean Johnson

The college newsletter (CSBS Statements) is now available both on-line and in hard copy. Dean Johnson is also pleased to announce that the provost has approved all of the college candidates for tenure and promotion, pending final approval by the Board of Regents.

The reconstruction of Sabin is proceeding on schedule, and demolition is expected to begin soon. The university has retained Lynn Basa to provide public art for the building, probably in the form of a floor mural. Representatives of the different departments to be housed in Sabin will have a chance to meet with her on March 12 and provide input into the project.

V. Update on CSBS Dean Search

Following a query by Senator Brown, Dean Johnson invited Sue Joseph and Provost Lubker to provide the senate with an update on the current status of the search for a new dean. The previous search was cancelled due to budget concerns. After consultation between President Allen and both the current and incoming provosts, the decision was made to conduct an internal search for a new dean with a three-year renewable term appointment. Provost Lubker noted that there is ample precedent for this as both CHFA and COE currently have deans with a term appointment. There were three internal candidates for the previous search, and those three people will be invited to keep their materials in the pool. They will also reopen the search to allow anyone in our college to apply. The deadline is March 18. The search committee will remain the same. Provost Lubker also stated that they plan to have public presentations by all of the finalists so that the faculty can provide input to the search committee.

VI. Budget Issues

Provost Lubker also announced that there will be an 11% budget reduction for fiscal 2010 and we expect fiscal 2011 to be even worse. After the provost left, there was further discussion of budget concerns. Dean Johnson said that he has consistently made the case to the higher administration that our college is a very lean and efficient operation, providing more student credit hours than any other college with the second smallest number of faculty. We also have a high number of teaching awards. He noted that he intends to continue to spend the college’s money carefully and responsibly, and that there may be the possibility of rolling over funds to the next fiscal year, which has not normally been permitted.

Senator Yu asked about the possibility of tapping into the endowment money at the UNI Foundation. Those accounts are invested, and because of the drop in the stock market, many of the endowment accounts have lost value and in some cases may even be currently worth less than the original donation. In order to maintain our current level of scholarship support, it may be necessary to transfer money from the central budget to make up for the temporary losses on the endowment. A certain percentage of scholarship money comes from state-mandated set-asides from tuition, and those scholarship amounts are not affected.
Because of spring break, the next meeting of the senate is scheduled for April 2.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn