Minutes of the CSBS Faculty Senate Meeting on 10/19/09

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Annette Lynch (DTGFS), Brian Roberts (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Cindy Juby (Social Work), Cyndi Dunn (Soc-Anth-Crim), Phil Mauceri (Dean).

I. Approval of the minutes

Two corrections were made to the spelling of proper names. The minutes from the Sept. 19th meeting of the senate were approved as corrected.

II. Meeting location

The current meeting location in Latham 218 is rather small, particularly when there are guests present. Chair Strauss will look into the availability of either Seerley 213 or Baker 315 as possible new locations for senate meetings.

III. Geography Department curriculum change and electronic voting

On Sept. 28, Chair Strauss sent an email to the senate informing them of a small change in the curriculum package for the Department of Geography. The change involved the addition of a one-hour professional development course to the major, which had already been approved by the senate. For clerical reasons, it is required that the course be added separately to each emphasis within the major rather than adding it to the major as a whole. Because this was a minor, bookkeeping issue and the senate would not be meeting again until October, a vote was held by email and the change was approved by the senate.

Chair Strauss wanted to verify that it is acceptable to senate members to hold this type of vote via email. It was agreed that email voting is acceptable provided that a) the issue is minor and non-controversial, and b) that all members of the senate agree to an email vote. If even one person objects, the senate must meet to discuss and vote in person.

IV. History Department proposal to drop European Studies major

Bob Martin was present to represent the Department of History. History is proposing to drop the interdisciplinary European Studies major. This is a second major only; it can only be completed by someone who is already in major in History or European languages. There have been very few students selecting this major over the past five years, and a phase-out was recommended by APA Task Force II. Modern Languages does not object. The change will have to be approved by the College of Fine Arts and Humanities Faculty Senate as well as the CSBS Faculty Senate. The CSBS Faculty Senate unanimously approved dropping the European Studies major.

V. CSBS Committee Representation

Chair Strauss passed around a list of committee assignments at both the university and college levels. All positions currently appear to be filled.
Dean Mauceri took the opportunity to announce that he has abolished the College Advisory Committee for tenure and promotion. Given that the membership rotated every year and had no clear criteria to guide decision-making, he felt that the committee was not able to provide consistent advice. Dean Mauceri noted that departments are currently being asked to develop an explicit set of criteria for tenure. Once those are available, he plans to post them on the college website so that people can compare and become aware of the criteria in different departments and disciplines.

It was also noted that the previously distinct scholarship committees for the college have now been combined into one single scholarship committee.

VI. Deadlines for Faculty Awards

Nominations for the Ross A. Nielsen Professional Service Award and the Class of 1943 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching are due to the senate by December 1. The senate must forward its selections to the Provost by February 6.

The deadline for the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence is uncertain. It is listed on the Provost’s website as October 26, but the committee has not yet been formed and the award has not been announced. Chair Strauss will investigate the matter and inform the senate of the correct deadline. The senate may nominate up to three individuals for this award.

VII. CSBS Strategic Plan

Al Hays was present as the chair of the CSBS Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Hays outlined his vision for the strategic planning process involving determining a mission statement, vision for the college, analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT), considering strategic issues and then using those issue areas to develop goals and action steps, to be followed by procedures for determining and evaluating outcomes. The committee would like widespread faculty input. They plan to have two open meetings lasting one and a half to two hours and will also develop a questionnaire for faculty who are unable to attend the meetings. They would like to have three faculty members present from each department. Most of the meeting time will be spent working in small groups. The first meeting will solicit input on the mission statement, vision, and SWOT exercise. The second meeting would allow people to work in groups to develop goals for whichever issue areas most interest them. The committee will develop the action steps as well as the final wording on everything which will then be brought back to the faculty for input and approval.

The senate agreed that November 2 and 16th will be used for the open faculty meetings for strategic planning. Chair Strauss will contact the senate if any issues arise requiring senate action before December. If need be, a special senate meeting can be scheduled for November 9 or 30.
VIII. Election of Vice Chair for Senate

Senator Lynch was elected as Vice Chair to substitute for Chair Strauss as needed.

IX. Comments from Dean Mauceri

Approximately 20 people attended the college Grants Day workshops. The college is planning another faculty development workshop in early November which will focus on online coursework.

In light of the current budget crisis, the provost has requested that all department heads justify and prioritize their adjunct requests. The dean’s office may be able to cover some of these positions if the provost’s office cannot.

There is currently discussion underway of reorganizing the School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services. This will likely include incorporating some or all of its programs into CSBS. A committee has been formed to plan the reorganization and will report by the end of the semester.

Dean Mauceri has also been considering the possibility of creating some type of school within CSBS which would bring together various types of professional programs within the college. This is still very much in the idea stage and faculty input is welcomed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn