Minutes of the CSBS Faculty Senate Meeting on 3/1/10

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

Guest: Jesse Swan, Chair of the Faculty.

I. Approval of the minutes

Minutes from the February 15th meeting were approved with minor changes.

II. Discussion with Chair of the Faculty about CNS and CHFA merger

Jesse Swan, Chair of the Faculty, met with the CSBS Faculty Senate to discuss faculty response to the merger of the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. The leadership of both of those colleges, leaders of the Graduate Council, and Jesse Swan as Chair of the Faculty have begun meeting regularly to consider faculty response to the merger as well as how faculty governance structures should change in response to the merger of the colleges as administrative units. They would welcome participation by someone from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences who could also be a liaison with the CSBS Faculty Senate. The group meets on Wednesdays at 2:00. Due to teaching conflicts, Chair Strauss is unable to fulfill this role.

Faculty Chair Swan noted that Provost Gibson has been responsive to faculty concerns, including restructuring the Transition Steering Committee to include wider representation by faculty elected by their peers in the two colleges. In addition, Provost Gibson has expressed her openness to faculty input and ideas on the best ways in which restructuring can be accomplished in or across various units across campus. Input can be provided either through the deans or to the Transition Steering Committee.

Senator Lynch suggested that it would be useful to have an open faculty forum to solicit faculty input and ideas for innovative restructuring. Faculty Chair Swan will work with the Transition Steering Committee and Provost Gibson to arrange such a forum sometime in April.

III. LAC Issues

Senator Dunn reported on the February 22nd meeting of the University Faculty Senate at which they discussed the proposal to include 200:030 Dynamics of Human Development in Category 5 of the Liberal Arts Core. There was a lengthy debate and the motion was tabled for further discussion at the March 8th meeting. The original motion called for including the course in Category 5b. During the debate, it was suggested that it be included in Category 5c instead. Senator Dunn solicited the views of the CSBS Senate on that proposal.

Senator MacLin stated that the concept of including 200:030 in Category 5 had been discussed with the head of Psychology but that this matter had never been brought to the department
faculty for discussion. He stated that they would discuss the matter at their upcoming department meeting.

Dean Mauceri expressed his view that placing the course in Category 5c could be a reasonable compromise. Senator Dunn stated her reservations about the appropriateness of the course for Category 5c.

There was some discussion of the problems of transfer credit for LAC courses and the fact that these decisions are made with no input or oversight from Academic Affairs. This matter is on the agenda for the University Faculty Senate. It was suggested that perhaps the matter of the Human Dynamics course should be tabled until after the University Faculty Senate deals with the transfer credit issue. Senator MacLin said that he would speak informally to colleagues in the College of Education to see if they would be open to that possibility.

IV. Elections for CSBS representatives to university committees

Chair Strauss now has an accurate listing of the committees which will have CSBS seats open for election for the next academic year. He will forward that list to all faculty in our college. Senators are asked to help recruit people willing to serve on these committees. The election will be held following spring break. Senator Yu noted that the elections must be held and the list of new committee members provided to the Committee on Committees by the beginning of April.

Dean Mauceri noted that Siobahn Morgan will be stepping down as the Chair of the Liberal Arts Core Committee. People are encouraged to send names of possible nominees for this post to Dean Mauceri for him to forward to the Provost.

V. Discussion of elimination of the College Advisory Committee for tenure and promotion

Upon taking office, Dean Mauceri eliminated the College Advisory Committee for tenure and promotion. This was done because the committee lacked continuity and consistency, seemed to serve little useful purpose, and he had heard mostly negative comments about it from faculty. However, he is open to reconsidering the issue based on faculty input. If he were to reconvene such a committee, he would want it to have a different and more consistent structure. Senator Lynch stated that she has not heard faculty calling for a reinstatement of the committee, but that people felt blindsided by the original decision which was not explained or communicated well.

VI. CSBS Strategic Plan

Once the strategic plan is complete, it will be submitted to the CSBS Faculty Senate for final approval.

After considerable badgering by Senator Dunn, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Dunn