Minutes of the CSBS Faculty Senate Meeting on 3/29/10

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Gowri Betrabet-Gulwadi (DTGFS), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Cindy Juby (Social Work), Cyndi Dunn (Soc-Anth-Crim), Phil Mauceri (Dean).

I. Approval of the minutes

Minutes from the March 3rd meeting were approved with no changes.

II. Lubker Research Award

The Senate appointed David May as our college’s representative on the James F. Lubker Research Award Committee.

The Lubker Award requires a “Cover letter from the Dean attesting to the fact that the appropriate College Senate was directly involved in selecting the college nominee(s).” Because the Senate was not aware of this, this award was not included in the 12/7/09 meeting at which the Senate nominated faculty for other university awards.

The Senate voted to nominate Bill Downs for the James F. Lubker Research Award.  Dean Mauceri was asked to send a letter certifying this to Shoshanna Coon in the Graduate College.

III. Elections for CSBS representatives to university committees

We now have at least one candidate for all of the CSBS open seats on university faculty committees.  The Senate decided to continue with the use of paper ballots.  The ballots will be sent as a Word document to all faculty to be printed out and returned to Chair Strauss.  Chair Strauss will solicit brief biographical statements from all of the candidates to be distributed together with the ballot.

IV. Updates

The motion on creating a new budget committee which was submitted by the CSBS Faculty Senate has been docketed, but it has not yet been discussed by the University Faculty Senate.

Senator MacLin attended the most recent Faculty Leadership meeting to discuss the reorganization of the colleges.  Senator MacLin was not present to report on this meeting.

The University Faculty Senate has approved the inclusion of 200:030 Dynamics of Human Development in Category 5b of the Liberal Arts Core.  Brenda Bass, Associate Dean and Chair of the Category 5 Coordinating Committee, will bring a proposal to the Liberal Arts Core Committee that this course be moved to Category 5c.

There was some discussion of the decision to eliminate the College Advisory Committee for tenure and promotion.  The Dean expressed his willingness to consider the creation of a new College Advisory Committee if it could be done with a structure that would provide greater
consistency and continuity. Senators were asked to survey their departmental faculty regarding 1) whether they see a need for a College Advisory Committee on tenure and promotion, and if so, 2) what type of structure would be most appropriate and effective.

The University Faculty Senate voted down a motion from the Liberal Arts Core Committee to restrict LAC transfer credit for courses that are not equivalent to those in the UNI Liberal Arts Core.

The CSBS Strategic Planning Committee is currently finalizing a draft of the college strategic plan which will be sent to all faculty. This plan will then be brought to the CSBS Faculty Senate for discussion and feedback. During fall of 2010, departments in the college will be asked to revisit their own departmental strategic plans and align them with that of the college. The Strategic Planning Committee will become a standing committee of the college which will annually review and assess the strategic plan.

V. Comments from Dean Mauceri

The college currently has two open searches for faculty in Psychology and Social Work. We are also conducting internal searches for associate dean of the College and department heads for Psychology and Political Science.

Chair Strauss asked about rumors of using a cut-off score on student course evaluations to determine tenure and promotion. Dean Mauceri said that while student evaluations of teaching should be considered as a factor, he has no intention of instituting a minimum cut-off score and is not aware of this being standard practice in other colleges. There has, however, been considerable criticism of the current instrument and discussion of shifting to a nationally-normed instrument for student evaluations of teaching. There may also be advantages to shifting to an on-line system.

Dean Mauceri also confirmed that Provost Gibson has mandated that all faculty have reasonable office hours that are clearly communicated to students through syllabi and posting on office doors.

The reconstruction of Sabin Hall is expected to be completed by the end of the fall semester of 2010 with faculty moving into new offices in December 2010 or January 2011.

The first college Alumni Day will be April 15-16.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn