Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 4/16/12

Present: Sunde Nesbit (Psychology), Tim Strauss (Geography), Carol Weisenberger (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Cyndi Dunn (SAC), Elaine Eshbaugh (SAHS), Jim McCullagh (Social Work), Philip Mauceri (Dean), Brenda Bass (Associate Dean).

Vice Chair Weisenberger chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair MacLin.

I. Approval of the minutes from 3/5/12

The minutes from 3/5/12 were approved with no changes.

II. Welcomes and farewells

Vice Chair Weisenberger thanked Dean Mauceri for his service as dean and expressed the Senate’s wishes for his success in his new position at SUNY-New Paltz.

The Senate also congratulated Professor Bass on her appointment as Interim Dean. We look forward to working with her in that capacity.

Senators MacLin (Psychology) and Strauss (Geography) are completing their first terms as senators. Both are eligible for a second term depending on the will of their respective departments. We appreciate Senator MacLin’s service as chair during 2011-2012. Senator Weisenberger (History) will be ending her service on the senate one year early due to demands of the 4-4 teaching policy. Her position will be filled by her alternate, Brian Roberts, for the 2012-2013 academic year.

III. Election of a new chair

It was suggested that the Senate adopt a policy whereby each senator would be expected to serve as either chair or secretary during his/her second year in office. In years in which three senators are serving for their second year, the third person would serve as vice chair.

In accordance with this principle, Senator Dunn was elected to serve as chair for the 2012-2013 academic year. Senator Eshbaugh will serve as secretary and vice chair.

IV. College elections

Vice Chair Weisenberger shared the following information about college elections which was forwarded to her from Chair MacLin.

Nominations for open positions were due to Chair MacLin by April 16. He will arrange to send out the ballots sometime this week or next week.
Chair MacLin also received a communication from University Senator Scott Peters who serves on the University Faculty Senate By-Laws Committee. The Faculty Senate Strategic Planning Committee has been abolished, so we do not need to elect a representative for that body.

Similarly, the University Faculty Senate is currently discussing abolishing the Faculty Oversight Committee for the Department of Military Science now that the department has been incorporated into the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. There was some discussion of whether the Department of Military Science should have some type of involvement with the CSBS Faculty Senate, possibly as a non-voting observer.

The Senate also discussed the current status of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee. The University Faculty Senate is voting this afternoon on possible changes to that committee’s structure which would involve a shift from elected to appointed membership. It was decided that our college should hold an election for the Budget Committee as usual. If need be, the CSBS Senate can appoint the winner of that election as our college’s representative to the committee.

V. Comments from the dean

Dean Mauceri expressed full confidence in Professor Bass’s ability to serve as interim dean. He has been working closely with her on all relevant issues throughout the year which should make for a smooth transition. That transition will begin in July although Professor Bass will not officially take office as interim dean until August 1.

The Academic Affairs Council has not yet discussed the faculty committee’s report on possible changes to the 4-4 teaching policy.

There was a question about the future of the dean’s initiative to broaden definitions of scholarship to recognize certain forms of community engagement which do not necessarily result in peer-reviewed publications. What will be the future of this initiative after Dean Mauceri leaves? Dean Mauceri responded that it is the faculty who are ultimately responsible for the evaluation of scholarship in their discipline. If faculty in some departments choose to move forward with revising their promotion criteria to incorporate new definitions of scholarship, that can be accomplished. He stated that President Allen and Provost Gibson have expressed support for this idea.

The CSBS Strategic Planning Committee met with the dean last week to evaluate progress on this year’s goals and action steps. They will meet again April 27 to develop new action steps for next year. The revised plan will then be sent out to the college.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn