Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 1/24/11

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Carol Weisenberger (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Cyndi Dunn(SAC), Annette Lynch (SAHS), Cindy Judy (Social Work), Philip Mauceri (Dean)

I. Approval of the minutes from 12/6/10

The minutes from 12/6/10 were approved with no changes.

II. James F. Lubker Research Award

The dean’s office has not received any nominations for the Lubker Award. There was some discussion of the fact that with the deadline set as the first Friday of the spring semester, the only opportunity to remind people of this award and request nominations is in December when everyone is preoccupied with the end of the semester. The award specifications also require deans to “consult with” their respective college senates, but the regularly scheduled January meeting date for the senate always falls on Martin Luther King Day. Given that the award was “created and is supported by the academic deans,” the deans may wish to readjust the award deadlines.

Dean Mauceri will make an announcement at the heads’ meeting on January 25 and solicit nominations. Any that are received will be submitted to the senators via email for their consideration and an electronic vote if necessary.

III. Further discussion of the proposed new award to recognize external organizations

Departmental faculty have generally been supportive of the idea of providing some type of recognition to external organizations which provide internships or other meaningful educational opportunities for CSBS students. However, there is concern that the potential benefits of a prestigious award might be outweighed if organizations which do not receive the award feel neglected or overlooked. This is particularly a problem given that there are quite a few organizations which have long-standing relationships with various departments and there would thus be quite a “backlog” of organizations deserving of such an award. It may be advisable to shift from thinking about an “award” to some type of broader recognition which could be made annually or biannually to all institutions meeting certain set criteria.

One possibility would be to give recognition every two years to all organizations that have provided internships for CSBS students during the preceding two-year period. Another option would be to start by recognizing institutions that have worked with CSBS over an extended time period, such as 25 years, and then potentially adjust the criteria in later years to be more inclusive. We could also combine these ideas with special recognition for “25-Year Partners in Education” or some other appropriate multiple.

Various forms of recognition were discussed. These include a full-page advertisement in the Des Moines Register and Waterloo Courier, listing the organizations on a poster as well as the CSBS
website, a banquet or luncheon for honorees, and a letter from the CSBS Dean recognizing and expressing appreciation for the organization’s contribution to the learning experiences of CSBS students. It was suggested that these organizations be recognized as “CSBS Partners in Education.”

Given that some of the organizations providing internship opportunities involve elected officials or government offices, monetary or other tangible tokens of appreciation are probably not appropriate. It was felt, however, that public officials as well as corporations and non-profit organizations would be appreciative of the positive publicity and honor of inclusion in the group being recognized. It was suggested that the Dean’s letter to the organization should also recognize by name any individual staff members who have been particularly active in facilitating or arranging the internships.

The senate should meet with Marketing for further discussion of the logistics of this recognition and the best ways to gain maximal beneficial publicity for both the college and the organizations being honored. It may also be possible to connect this with the current “I am” publicity campaign as in “UN-I am interning in a great place.”

There was also some discussion of the best timing of this recognition with several people suggesting the fall semester as both the time when students will have recently completed internships and the time when prospective students are most likely to be visiting the campus and would see the publicity. We should also investigate whether there are certain featured sections or special editions of the relevant newspapers which would be particularly appropriate for a full-page advertisement.

IV. Elections for University Committees

During spring 2011, CSBS will need to elect representatives to the following university committees:

Advisory Committee for the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching
Faculty Strategic Planning Committee
Graduate Student Appeal Board
Graduate Council
Committee on Admission, Readmission, and Retention

Senators were asked to notify their departmental faculty of these openings and encourage people to run for office. It was suggested that since the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching no longer exists, that soliciting candidates for that advisory committee should not be a high priority.
V. Schedule for Review of Curriculum Packages

Curriculum packages have been scheduled as follows:

Feb. 7  Psychology
Feb. 21 Geography
       History
March 7 Social Work
       Applied Human Sciences
March 21 Political Science
       Women’s and Gender Studies
April 4 Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology

There is some confusion about how the senators will be able to access the departmental packages for review. Chair Strauss will investigate how to get the “codes” which allow access to completed curriculum packages which have been submitted to the curriculum system. All departments should submit their final packages at least one week in advance to allow the senate time to review them prior to discussion and voting. Traditionally the department head and chair of the curriculum committee attend the senate meeting to present their packages and address any questions the senate may have.

VI. Comments from Dean Mauceri

There was some brief discussion of the recent incorporation of the Department of Military Science into the College of Social and Behavioral Science. It was suggested that we may want to invite representatives of that program to meet with the senate, possibly during the fall 2011 semester, in order for the senate to become better informed about their program.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn