

College of Arts & Sciences Chairs' Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2010

1. Departments Quick Update

Beginning the meeting with a brief update from each Chair shall be a regular feature of the A&S Chairs meetings. Comments were made too numerous to mention, however there were several common themes among most all departments within the college and they include visiting scholars, active alumni, many programs and conferences, guest artists and scholars, political visits, touring ensembles, and active searches.

2. Holly Lawson to present a new program proposal: MSED Natural Sciences 7-12

Professor Lawson presented, on behalf of The Science Education Partnership, their proposal for a new program they hope will broaden the scope of the MSED/Biology program to include all areas of natural science. This would then provide a route to professional certification for general science and teaching at the middle school level, in addition to the 7-12 gr level.

The proposal has been approved PEC and the Grad Counsel, and is pending approval via Senate through Department Chairs.

3. UUP Personnel Policies Negotiation Committee

The Dean provided a brief overview of this committee's charge and the announced the members. They are Michael Daley, Ginny Horvath, John Kijinski, David Hermann, Bridget Russell, Kathleen Sacco, Janet Mayer, and Ed Giblin.

4. University Operating Budget Shortfall (Handout)

Dean Kijinski distributed a copy of the University's Operating Budget Shortfall Projections for AY 2010-2011 and explained it. He indicated that exactly 20 positions across the board for Vice Presidents have to be cut via retirements, etc., by January 1st. The exact impact on Academic Affairs is to be determined in the meantime. In the interim, scheduling of courses needs to be lean.

5. Enrollment targets

Dr. Kijinski indicated that if we meet the enrollment targets of last year we should be ok, at least for now. He will however be discussing enrollment targets with each Chair during this month's standings.

6. Spring Adjunct COS'

Chairs are reminded to get their spring adjunct COS' in.

7. Topic suggestions for the Statement

Earlier in month, the Dean asked each Chair for story suggestions for the Statement, the biannual newsletter published by Fredonia College Foundation for Alumni. Several excellent ideas were provided and shall be forwarded to Roger Coda for consideration.

8. Gateway or barrier courses

Also earlier in the month, Associate Dean, Roger Byrne, requested information from each Chair that identifies any entry-level course or courses that students must take in your program that you regard as being the "gateway" or "barrier" courses to their continued enrollment in your program. Students may find these courses to be particularly challenging academically, or the courses would tend to either cement their resolve to continue in the major or convince them to find another major. Such courses need not be courses in your own department, but must be courses required of your program.

This information is needed for a grant application looking at ways advanced technology may be used to enhance student success, particularly in courses that are barriers to their retention in a major. Several responses were received.

9. Course/Program Proposals Reviewed:

- ITAL 210
- HIST 250 / INDS 250
- COMM 313
- COMM 302
- MUS 543
- CHEM 530
- ESCI 310
- ESCI 410
- PHED 315

All were reviewed and approved to submit to the Academic Affairs Committee.

10. Assistant Dean Update

Dr. Johnston-Robledo has met with 2/3 of the college departments to date regarding their assessment plans and will finish her meetings by the end of the month. She

indicated there seems to be a lack of visibility and documentation among departments and is awaiting the hire of a new Campus Assessment Coordinator for guidance during our corrective action to the middle states report.

11. Old Business – Survey Response to Student Learning Perception

The previous senate meeting was discussed. It seems the topic of a student survey concerns many faculty members and there is still a wide gap in campus support. Would the survey lead to a teacher survey? Do we care what students think? Dean Kijinski will address this issue in the A&S Update. He will share administration's position on this topic so that Chairs may convey the message to faculty and assist in alleviating some fears.

Dr. Kijinski commented that a survey of student learning perception, program assessment, and instructor evaluations are 3 separate and distinct processes that all measure assessment. As the meeting concluded, the Dean asked everyone to think of ideas that can be implemented which may build trust. Should there be a survey of teacher perception of student learning?

12. The Advising Office

Chairs are wondering what will become of the Advising Office now that its entire staff will retire soon. Dr. Kijinski will find out and advise all at the next meeting.