

**Members Present:** Fran Arbaugh; Bernard Badiali; Jim Herbert; Simon Hooper; Dana Mitra; Orrin Murray; Leticia Oseguera; Stephanie Serriere; Jerry Trusty; Beverly Vandiver; Pam Wolfe; Shirley Woika

**Guests:** Jackie Edmonson; David Monk

**1. Approval of the minutes from November 17, 2011**

One question was raised about the minutes. Should the minutes reflect under the Dean's comments that the implementation of the new director and coordinator positions in the departments would occur in fall 2012? The Dean agreed to the following change in the minutes: "...the process will be phased in between spring 2012 and fall 2012. The chair will add this phrase to page 3, item q. With this change, it was motioned and seconded that the minutes be approved. All approved the minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2. Announcements by the Chair:** None

**3. Communications to the Council:** None

**4. Comments by the Dean of the College**

- a. The College received a donation of \$2,500 for the College's Future Funds.
- b. Construction on the Krause Innovation Studio is progressing.
- c. The College's commencement is December 17 and Gary Orfield will receive an honorary doctorate. He will also be returning in April.
- d. Several faculty searches are underway in the College in various stages, including in Higher Education, Science Education, Adult Education, and Social Studies Education. Furthermore, CYFC has a search for a faculty position on innovative methods. Some of the candidates have an education background.
- e. The Dean will send out the most revised version of the director and coordinator's job descriptions for faculty review and comments. A discussion occurred about the role of Faculty Council in the decision making process of these new positions. Based on the Constitution, the Council's role is advisory to the Dean. The positions are considered a work in progress with each department having flexibility in determining how the positions will operate.
- f. The Dean is proceeding to implement the new RIF policy. Several concerns were expressed by Council:
  1. The new proportion of the split between the Dean's office and the Departments is higher than other Colleges on the list. Thus, the split should be reconsidered. The Dean indicated that there may be some flexibility on the proportion of RIF that is allocated to the departments if the College doesn't need as much to operate.
  2. Clarification of terms is needed. For example, what does it mean if a project originates from the Dean's office versus from the Department? What if the project originates from another College? The Dean indicated that most projects originate from the Departments.

3. A request was made to have a transparent budget so the faculty can see how the RIF are being spent in the College. The Dean indicated that the budget would be transparent and detailed how this would occur, including periodic reports provided to the Department Heads to share with faculty.
4. There was concern about incentivizing faculty. Is it best to use funds for everyone versus recycle the funds back to the PIs? What is the incentive of PIs to pursue grants if nothing returns to them? The Dean indicated that there were various ways to recognize faculty and that using RIF as seed monies would be beneficial in helping faculty to get a project started.
5. Is there a way to inform the faculty of what the College will be offering so faculty know that the changes will benefit them? The Dean agreed and indicated that the College will disseminate information regarding the College's initiative to assist faculty in furthering their research.
- g. The CEDAR Building project is progressing and the EPCSE faculty will be moving in January for the renovations to occur.
- h. The College's holiday party is at 4 p.m. at the Nittany Lion Inn.
5. **Reports of Standing Committees:** All committee reports were deferred until January due to the need to finish before 4 p.m.
  - 5.1 Committee on Graduate Studies & Research Policy (Jerry Trusty, Chair)
  - 5.2 Committee on Curricular Affairs (Stephanie Serriere, Chair)
  - 5.3 Committee on Faculty, Staff, and Student Concerns (Barbara Schaefer)
  - 5.4 Technology Committee (Simon Hooper, Chair)
6. **Reports of special and ad hoc committees:** This report was deferred until January due to the need to finish before 4 p.m.
  - 6.1 Departmental representative to Faculty Council (Fran Arbaugh)
7. **News from Faculty Senate** (Beverly Vandiver)— This report was deferred until January due to the need to finish before 4 p.m.
8. **Unfinished business:**
  - 8.1 Representation of departments—See 4e.
  - 8.2 Changes in RIF Guidelines—See 4f.
  - 8.3 Update on current and future building renovations—delayed until next meeting
  - 8.4 Equitable workspaces for faculty throughout the College—delayed until next meeting
  - 8.5 Academic integrity—delayed until next meeting
  - 8.6 Academic freedom/scholarship and Development— A concern was expressed about what happens when donors have concerns about faculty research. A situation was described in which a couple of donors expressed concern about a faculty member's research findings, which were summarized in a newsletter. This issue was raised to stimulate a discussion about best practices on how faculty members interact with donors, especially when the research may be considered

controversial. A discussion ensued and some suggestions were provided. One, when faculty are unsure how to discuss the matter with a donor, contact the Dean's office as well as contact the College's development person. Two, it might be helpful to have a primer on talking to donors posted on the faculty/staff page of the College's website.

9. **New business**

Faculty requested that new business for next meeting would be on how faculty council could have a stronger voice in the college's governance.

10. **Forensic business:** none

11. **Comments and recommendations for the good of the College:** none

It was motioned and seconded that the faculty council meeting be adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by Beverly J. Vandiver