

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

VOL. 45, NO. 9 MARCH 7, 2014

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Council Minutes from the January 13, 2014 Meeting

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp (Vice Chair), Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Professors Mark Abbott, Daniel Balderston, David Bartholomae, Kay Brummond, Lisa Brush, Carol Colby, Stephen Manuck, Scott Morgenstern, Kathleen Musante, Lester Olson and Jean-François Richard, Lecturers Kathleen Allen, George Bandik, and Geeta Kothari, and Graduate Student Representatives David Bisaha and Woden Kusner

Not in Attendance: Professor Paul Glabicki and Undergraduate Student Representatives Brandon Benjamin and Nuwan Perera

1. Minutes of the meeting held on November 5, 2013

Dean Cooper presented a draft of the minutes of the meeting held on November 5, 2013. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported several achievements of Dietrich School members since the last Council meeting. Professor David Bartholomae (English) was named the 2013 Pennsylvania Professor of the Year. Professors Susan Andrade (English) and Jonathan Arac (English) were selected for the 2013-14 Core Fulbright US Scholar grants. Professor David Waldeck (Chemistry) received the 2013 American Chemical Society Pittsburgh Award. Lecturers Jane Wallace (Economics) and Katherine Wolfe (Economics) were named the 2014 winners of the Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising. Professors James Bogen (History and Philosophy of

Science) and Jeffrey Brodsky (Biological Sciences) were named as American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows.

3. Result of Nominating Committee election (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper announced the faculty elected to the Nominating Committee: Professor Todd Reeser (French and Italian), Professor Deane Root (Music), Ms. Jennifer Lee (English), Professor Michael Goodhart (Political Science), Professor John Markoff (Sociology), Dr. Shirley Cassing (Economics), Professor Diane Litman (Computer Science), Professor Susan Sesack (Neuroscience), and Dr. Valerie Oke (Biological Sciences).

4. Update on the Budget (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that the operational budget is stable at a reduced level.

5. Report from Dietrich School Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)

Associate Dean John Twyning reported that the Dietrich School Undergraduate Council has not met since the last Council meeting, but it intends to proceed with new OMET processes this semester. He noted one change in the proposals allowing a three-week window instead of a two-week window.

The report was moved, seconded, and approved.

6. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council (Associate Dean Kathleen Blee)

Associate Dean Kathleen Blee reported that Graduate Council met on December 17, 2013. It reviewed preliminary data on the number of applications in selected departments since the institution of higher minimum TOEFL scores. Graduate Council will continue to monitor these data. The Council provided ideas for the second year survey of PhD alums three years after graduation, which will be launched this

month. Subcommittee reports from the TA/TF training reviews in History and Philosophy of Science and in Neuroscience were reviewed and approved and will be sent to their respective departments for review and comments. Graduate Council also reviewed a report from Anthropology that detailed improvements made as a result of last year's TA/TF training review.

The report was moved, seconded, and approved.

7. Appoint member to CGS Council (Dean N. John Cooper)

Council appointed Senior Lecturer John Gareis (Communication) to serve in the College of General Studies Council.

8. Proposal to change Master Teacher working title for Lecturers to Lecturer II (Senior Associate Dean James Knapp)

Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, as promised in the September 13, 2013 meeting, proposed amending the Dietrich School Bylaws to change the Lecturer working title to "Lecturer I" and the Lecturer/Master Teacher working title to "Lecturer II." The proposal was moved, seconded, and approved and will be brought to the Dietrich School Spring Full Faculty meeting for an official vote.

9. Set dates and agenda items for Full Faculty meeting (Dean N. John Cooper)

Council selected Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 1 p.m. as the date and time for the Spring Full Faculty meeting. The agenda for the meeting was approved.

10. Other Business

Dean Cooper announced the Provost's approval of the new Discipline Based Science Research Center (dB-SERC) and Professor Chandralekha Singh (Physics and Astronomy) as its Director. dB-SERC will provide workshops for faculty and help develop new courses. Plans are underway for creating a similar center for the Humanities and Social Science.

Professor Daniel Balderston raised the issue of supervision by the Office of the Dean of staff who serve multiple departments and expressed a preference for

Chairs to play that role. Dean Cooper reminded Professor Balderston that the topic will be raised with the Planning and Budgeting Committee at its next meeting.

Professor Jean-François Richard expressed his discontent with the three levels of lecturers and the inability of lecturers to become Senior Lecturers without a terminal degree. Dean Cooper and Associate Dean Knapp clarified School-level policy and practice on this.

Professor Olson requested that colleagues critically examine the claim that larger majors or higher credit hours should translate into additional TA or TF lines, offering one sustained example of a department that deliberately reduced the size of the major to improve faculty to student ratios. As the Humanities Divisional Chair, he reported that Humanities departments are concerned about the pending reallocation. Associate Dean Kathleen Blee reminded him that his own department has not received all the data yet, and further discussion could take place at the upcoming meeting scheduled with the department.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Planning and Budgeting Committee
Minutes from the February 11, 2014 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean of the College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Senior Director of Undergraduate Studies Judith McConnaha, Professors Daniel Balderston, Luca Rigotti, and David Waldeck, Lecturers Anthony Novosel and Brett Wells, and Staff Representatives Linda Howard and Karen Lillis

Not in Attendance: Associate Dean for Administration Dick Howe, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara

Vattimo, Professors Scott Morgenstern, Nathaniel Rosi, and Andrew Weintraub, Lecturer Anthony Bledsoe, Staff Representative Mary Beth Conroy, and Graduate Student Representative John Trenton

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 2014

Dean Cooper presented the draft of the minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 2014. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning and Associate Dean of the College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero noted errors in attendance. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as amended.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that the Board of Trustees elected Dr. Patrick D. Gallagher as Chancellor Mark Nordenberg's successor. Dr. Gallagher is a Ph.D. graduate of the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

Dean Cooper announced that three of five 2014 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Awards were given to Dietrich School faculty members: Associate Professor Nathaniel Rosi (Chemistry), Distinguished Professor Marcus Rediker (History), and Assistant Professor Jonathan Pruitt (Biological Sciences). Professor Robert Ruck (History) was a recipient of the 2014 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award.

3. Report on the Budget (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that the operational budget is stable at a reduced level.

4. Draft of the Planning Document section on Graduate Education (Associate Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Cooper asked Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Kathleen Blee to lead discussion of the draft of FY 2015 Planning Document section on Graduate Education. Associate Dean Blee reported that six Dietrich School graduate programs are currently ranked in the top quartile by US News; however, US News is not an all-encompassing ranking system and does not include disciplines in some world-class programs in the Dietrich School. Associate Dean Blee described ways in which Graduate Studies is working to secure national and international rankings.

The draft contained application, admission, and enrollment data detailing long-term goals of higher selectivity and successful recruitment into graduate programs, as well as initiatives to improve TA instruction, attrition rates, and professional socialization. Associate Dean Blee reported progress on assembling a data base of Ph.D. alums to assess placement data and to access as a resource for current graduate students. The data is being shared with respective departments for their alumni data bases. Dean Cooper suggested adding a date to assess the placement data gathered over intervals of time. Council approved the draft as presented, recognizing that additional benchmarking data might be added.

Professor Balderston asked about the timeline for finalizations of the planning document, and Dean Cooper indicated that he believed all sections could be finalized by the March 3rd meeting of the Committee.

5. Other Business

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Planning and Budgeting Committee
Minutes from the February 17, 2014 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean of the College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Professors Daniel Balderston, Scott Morgenstern, Luca Rigotti, Nathaniel Rosi, David Waldeck, and Andrew Weintraub, Lecturers Anthony Bledsoe, Anthony Novosel, and Brett Wells, Staff Representatives Linda Howard and Karen Lillis, and Graduate Student Representative John Trenton

Not in Attendance: Associate Dean for Administration Dick Howe, Senior Director of Undergraduate Studies Judith McConnaha, and Staff Representative Mary Beth Conroy

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2014

Dean Cooper presented the draft of the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2014. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that Professor Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski (French and Italian Languages and Literatures) was elected as a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America.

3. Report on the Budget (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that the operational budget is stable at a reduced level.

4. Draft of the Planning Document section on Undergraduate Studies (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean began a review of the Planning Document section on Undergraduate Studies by describing ways in which the School is addressing areas with opportunities for improvement revealed by the immense amount of useful information provided by the Student Experience in Research Universities (SERU) data. Initiatives exist both on Departmental and School levels, including the establishment of the Discipline-Based Science Education Research Center (dB-SERC) and TA optimization workshops.

Dean Cooper and Associate Dean John Twyning continued with discussion on student retention and graduation strategies through increased engagement of undergraduate students by research opportunities, study abroad opportunities, Freshman Program courses, and the Academic Resource Center, as well as ways to identify higher or lower risk students through a business intelligence approach classification system.

The Committee agreed this draft was acceptable, with the addition of a subsection on the College of General Studies and benchmarking data.

5. Other Business

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Planning and Budgeting Committee Minutes from the February 26, 2014 Meeting

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean of the College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Senior Director of Undergraduate Studies Judith McConnaha, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Professors Daniel Balderston, Scott Morgenstern, Luca Rigotti, Nathaniel Rosi, David Waldeck, and Andrew Weintraub, Lecturers Anthony Bledsoe, Anthony Novosel, and Brett Wells, Staff Representatives Linda Howard and Karen Lillis, and Graduate Student Representative John Trenton

Not in Attendance: Associate Dean for Administration Dick Howe, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, and Staff Representative Mary Beth Conroy

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2014

Dean Cooper presented the draft of the minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2014. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that Professors Marlene Cohen (Neuroscience), Sergey Frolov (Physics and Astronomy), and Michael Neilan (Mathematics) are 2014 recipients of Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowships.

3. Report on the Budget (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that the operational budget is stable at a reduced level.

4. Draft of the Planning Document section on Faculty (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean began a review of the Planning Document section on Faculty with a review on recruitment and

senior hiring processes, faculty mentoring programs, recent changes in Dietrich School Bylaws and governance documents regarding non-tenure stream faculty, and research infrastructure.

The Committee agreed this draft was acceptable, with the addition of a subsection on Academic Analytics.

5. Other Business

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.