

School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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Minutes of the Meeting of the A&S Planning and Budgeting Committee

Held on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 10:30 am
In 910 Cathedral of Learning

Attending: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean John Twyning, Senior Assistant Dean Michele Amato, Assistant Dean Barbara Vattimo, Associate Dean Nicole Constable, Associate Dean Kelly Otter, Senior Director of Undergraduate Studies Judith McConnaha, Professors Randall Walsh, Jerome Branche, James Cassing, Linda Jen-Jacobson, Don Bonidie, , Staff Representative Liz Conforti, Student Representative Julia Bursten

Not attending: Associate Dean W. Richard Howe, Director of Communications, Carol Mullen, Professors Steve Weber, Susan Harris Smith, Staff Representative Georgia Spears, Student Representative Megan Julian

1. Minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2011

Dean Cooper presented the minutes of the March 7th meeting. There was a correction made of the day of the week of the last meeting to Monday, March 7, 2011. There was a motion that the minutes be accepted and the motion was seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Combined Dean's Report and Report on the budget

The Dean reported that the Governor has recommended a 50% cut in appropriations for all the State-related universities. This is much worse than anyone anticipated, and the fact that the State-owned institutions were also recommended for 50% cuts shows that it is not just the flagship institutions but almost all of higher education that is being targeted. Only community colleges have "only" been recommended for a 10% cut.

The 50% cut would reduce us to about 4% Commonwealth funding, a similar level of support to that of the University of Virginia where tuition is around the \$25,000 mark.

The Dean was not optimistic that the appropriation would change significantly as the budget process proceeds.

A & S is about halfway through the hiring season. At this point the School has received no directions to cease hiring, and will keep moving forward.

3. Planning Document Sections

Dean Cooper presented the Mission Statement and material on faculty recruitment. A faculty diversity section has been added to reflect on the success in recruiting African/African-American faculty. Gender diversity in incoming faculty was down somewhat at 30%.

A list has been added of majors that have been changed as a result of outcomes assessment. Note has been taken of certificate programs that have become inactive because students were not taking them. The College of General Studies does not have faculty, and outcomes assessment for its programs was conducted by faculty committees convened by Associate Dean Kelly Otter.

A report on Departmental Strategic Planning has been added. Last year the departments of Psychology and History of Art and Architecture participated in this process, and this year currently Biology, English, and Mathematics are participating.

After further discussion and clarification a motion to approve the document was proposed and accepted.

4. With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

Minutes of the Arts and Sciences Council Meeting

Held on March 18, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
910 Cathedral of Learning

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean Nicole Constable, Associate Dean John Twyning, Professors,

Jerome Branche, Graham Hatfull, Deane Root, Suzanne Staggenborg, and Randall Walsh and GSO Representatives Emma Freeman and Katie Moriarty

Not attending: Senior Assistant Dean Michelle Amato, Senior Director of Undergraduate Studies Judith McConnaha and Professors David Birnbaum, Peter Karsten, Jonathan Arac, Kathleen Blee, Joseph Grabowski, Diane Litman, Paul Shepard

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on February 16, 2011

The only change to the minutes of the February 16th meeting was to remove the word, “draft” from the document. Professor Randall Walsh motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Dean Twyning and was approved by the council.

2. Dean’s Report – Dean Cooper combined this section with the update on the budget

3. Update on the Budget

Dean Cooper reported on the recent proposal by the Governor for a 50% cut in the Commonwealth appropriation to the University. This has been described by a national organization as the largest cut in US public higher education ever. He emphasized that the cut is actually even larger than it sounds. The appropriation is \$168 million, but the cost is a 55% cut if you take into account the loss of ARRA funding. Including line items (largely for Medicine) the total cut is \$105 million.

Professor Graham Hatfull asked about the tobacco settlement funds.

Dean Cooper indicated that these funds have not been included in the numbers he had reported because their status is unclear, and if those are also lost the cut will be \$113 million.

Dean Cooper placed the appropriation within the context of the full \$1.8 billion budget of the University. This is much larger than the appropriation, but much of the broader budget revenue is not fungible. For example, revenues for the auxiliary enterprises, such as student housing and food, are about 7% of the budget and aren’t fungible. The endowment revenue is not fungible since most of it is restricted, although much of it does benefit students

–endowment revenue pays, for example, for the Mellon Professors, and there is also Mellon endowment revenue that supports graduate fellowships. The Dean suggested that if there is a 50% cut the University would have to increase in-state tuition significantly, but at this point he has no idea by how much. There could also be a reduction of the Education and General budget, although at the school level there is some level of protection from an overall reduction since protective steps were taken a few years ago in preparation for a reduction of Commonwealth funding. The University has chosen not to institute a hiring freeze as of this time. However the budget plays out, five years from now the university is likely to look a lot more private.

The Chancellor’s office has put together an informational website called Pitt Progress. The website is www.progress.pitt.edu, and has a link where you can find your legislator. There is information on how the University has increased efficiency, how it has created jobs, etc..

The Chancellor and the Provost were in Harrisburg this week at a meeting of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and many students will be going to Harrisburg as part of Pitt Day on the 5th of April. The Commonwealth budget is required by law to be in place by June 30th; in previous difficult years the budget has, however, been as late as December. The upper administration is approaching the situation very thoughtfully, and is committed to the proposition that to attract and deliver value to top-rate students Pitt must have top-rate faculty and programs.

Professor Graham Hatfull asked if the Dean’s office would be sending out faculty recruiting requests for next year. Dean Cooper responded that they will be doing that on time this year. He emphasized that the past year has been a fabulous hiring year, especially at the senior level.

Professor Hatful asked about the reactions from other schools. Dean Cooper discussed what is public on the School of Medicine’s budget, and explained that it may not be as buffered as the Arts and Sciences budget.

4. Report from Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)

On February 25th the Undergraduate Council met and approved the Slavic Department’s proposal to revise their bylaws to allow departmental approval of new courses. The UC approved the following existing courses to fulfill General Education Requirement: RUSS 0090 Russian Fairy

Tales (David Birnbaum, Literature) and RELGST 1557 Buddhist Lives (Clark Chilson, Non-Western Culture). The UC also approved the following new courses: SLAV 1050 Computational Methods in the Humanities (David Birnbaum), which was also approved to fulfill the Quantitative and Formal Reasoning requirement. This morning the Undergraduate Council met and approved new course, Urban Studies 1612 Social Justice and the City (Michael Glass). There was a motion to accept the report and the report was accepted.

5. Report from Arts and Sciences Graduate Council
(Associate Dean Nicole Constable)

The Graduate Council met and approved the courses for Linguistics and Slavic. We had a brief update on the most recent graduate proposals. The film Ph.D. proposal had been tabled and we're hoping to have it for our next Graduate Council meeting. There is an upcoming graduate expo on Thursday of next week. Associate Dean Constable encouraged everyone to attend and announced that they are still looking for a few judges, and to let the GSO know if you have any suggestions.

It was announced that ACLS new Faculty Fellow Jessie Ramey has accepted a position in the Women's Studies Program.

A motion to accept the Associate Dean's report was approved

6. Approval of Second Language General Education Requirement (Associate Dean John Twyning)

Associate Dean Twyning sought approval for changes in the language regarding the second language requirement. Until now the required grade for exemption from the second language requirement on the basis of at least three years of a foreign language in high school was C -, and that is now being changed to a B. Professor Deane Root asked for a clarification on item D, "Having a native language other than English." Dean Twyning explained that Undergraduate Council wanted commonsense language that would be appropriate for all situations.

Katie Moriarty brought up the point that in the language departments there is often a problem with heritage speakers, people who have grown up speaking a language in the home with their family, but who often can't read and write in that language.

Dean Twyning agreed that she had touched on a complex issue. This language change is an attempt to clarify this issue. There was a broad discussion around this topic, and Dean Cooper said the language leaves room for the students to be required to demonstrate their proficiency. Professor Deane Root mentioned he had a problem with the word "having" when all the other options for fulfillment of the requirement are more action-oriented. Dean Twyning responded by saying that "native" is related to one's birth, so you "have" a language related to your birth in that situation.

Emma Freeman asked what the objective is for second language proficiency. She brought up the point that speakers with a native proficiency have already had exposure to another culture, thereby fulfilling one objective of the requirement. Dean Cooper reiterated that the debate over the years has been whether everyone should study a second language through level two at Pitt, but that this would take a substantial reallocation of faculty resources from other departments. He suggested that the Council move forward to accept this language. Professor Root stated that he thought the change from a high school grade of C- to B is commendable and appropriate.

Professor Jerome Branche moved to approve the document and Graduate Student Representative Emma Freeman seconded. It was unanimously approved.

7. Other Business

Associate Dean Twyning reported that the University has suspended study abroad in Japan.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Minutes of the Arts and Sciences
Council Meeting**
Held on May 20, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
910 Cathedral of Learning

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean Nicole Constable, Senior Assistant Dean Michelle Amato, Professors, Jerome Branche, Deane Root, Suzanne Staggenborg, Kathleen Blee, David Birnbaum, Joseph Grabowski, Peter Karsten, Diane Litman, and Randall Walsh

Not attending: Associate Dean John Twyning, Senior Director of Undergraduate Studies Judith McConnaha and Professors, Jonathan Arac, Paul Shepard, Graham Hatfull, and GSO Representatives Emma Freeman and Katie Moriarty

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on March 18, 2011

The only change to the minutes of the March 18 meeting was to remove the word, “draft” from the document. Professor Deane Root motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Professor Joe Grabowski and was approved by the council.

2. Dean’s Report – Dean Cooper combined this section with the update on the budget

3. Update on the Budget

Dean Cooper reported that a 25% cut in the Commonwealth Appropriation to the University is most realistic, and the University has developed strategies to deal with this issue. He emphasized that it is not clear what affect this will have on tuition, however, if tuition increases, the institution will act quickly to inform students and parents of the increases.

Professor Suzanne Staggenborg asked if there was going to be a hiring freeze due to University cuts. Dean Cooper indicated the University has made no moves in the direction of eliminating or delaying hiring. He indicated that the recruitment process this year is going well and he does not anticipate any problems for the next year. Arts and Sciences will work to keep T/TS faculty strength up while moving forward over the next few years to deal with the impact of cuts to the University Appropriation.

4. Report from Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)

Associate Dean John Twyning was unable to attend the meeting and Dean Cooper presented material to the Council on his behalf.

Undergraduate Council met on April 14, 2011 and discussed the internship guidelines for undergraduate students. The discussion focused on the minimum GPA required for a student to participate in an Arts and Sciences internship. The Undergraduate Council voted unanimously to increase the minimum GPA from 2.25 to 2.75. Also, they approved a new

major in Mathematical Biology proposed by Ivan Yotov and Frank Beatrous.

Undergraduate Council met on April 28, 2011 and approved the Psychology Department’s proposal to revise their bylaws to allow departmental approval of new courses. They also approved the ENGFLM 1920 Advanced Seminar in Film Studies (Adam Lowenstein) course to fulfill the General Education Requirement for writing, and HIST 1511 The Politic of Historical Memory: Legacies of State Terror in Latin America (Lara Putnam) course to fulfill the requirement of Writing, Historical Change, Foreign Culture/International – Regional, and Non-Western Culture.

There was a motion to accept the report and the report was accepted unanimously.

5. Report from Arts and Sciences Graduate Council (Associate Dean Nicole Constable)

Graduate Council met on April 15, 2011 and discussed the status of the first class of Arts and Sciences post-docs, who have completed their first year successfully; many plan to apply for a second year. Some will renew for a full year and some for an additional semester. CSSD is working to put together an electronic system to help with the application review process.

The Hot Metal Bridge Fellowship currently has nine Fellows in the English and Psychology Departments and discussions are underway to include additional positions in departments such as Biological Science and a combination placement involving both English and Theatre Arts.

Professor Randall Walsh moved to accept the Associate Dean’s report. The motion was seconded by Professor David Birnbaum and approved by the council.

6. Film Studies Ph.D. Proposal Revised (Associate Dean Nicole Constable)

Associate Dean Nicole Constable reported that the Graduate Council fully supports the Film Studies Ph.D. Proposal that spans a range of departments, including English, History of Art and Architecture, Slavic, German, French, and Hispanic. The structure of the Ph.D. Film Studies program will be interdisciplinary and interdepartmental requiring all students to have an Area of Concentration that corresponds with an associated department (the six listed above). She also stated that all Film Studies Ph.D. students will be required to fulfill the requirements of their Area of Concentration as well as the

Film Studies Ph.D. requirements.

The associated MA in Film Studies was brought to the attention of the council. Associate Dean Nicole Constable informed Council that this degree will be granted only to those students who have been admitted to the doctorate in Film Studies but are subsequently unable to finish the program. The new MA in Film Studies provides the group of doctoral students the possibility of a terminal degree that acknowledges their completed studies.

Professor Randall Walsh moved to approve the Film Studies Ph.D. Proposal and the report was accepted unanimously by the council.

7. Nomination of Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (Dean Cooper)

Professor Blee left the meeting for this item, and Dean Cooper then introduced his nomination of Professor Kathleen Blee for the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies position. Dean Cooper provided an overview of the position and the responsibilities. He also mentioned some of Professor Kathleen Blee's impressive accomplishments in her distinguished career and reported that she has done an excellent job as Chair of the Sociology Department since 2008. Dean Cooper has discussed with Professor Blee a time line under which she would be taking a one year sabbatical starting in the Fall semester for research purposes, and an Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies would be appointed in her place until June 30, 2012. In response to questions from the council on this time line, Dean Cooper stated that this is an unusual step he is willing to take because Professor Blee has so much to offer in this position.

Professor Peter Karsten offered the view that Professor Blee has enormous integrity and would commit entirely to the task at hand. Professor Karsten moved to approve the nomination of Professor Kathleen Blee as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. This was seconded by Professor Deane Root and approved unanimously by the council.

Professor Blee rejoined the meeting and was thanked for her willingness to serve as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research.

8. With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.