COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

385 Bricker Hall

April 28, 2010

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Faculty:
✓ Dr. Leslie Alexander (History)  ✓ Dr. Jay S. Hobgood ( Geography)
✓ Dr. Lawrence A. Baum ( Political Science)
✓ Dr. Neelima M. Bendapudi (Marketing and Logistics)  ✓ Dr. Daniel A. Mendelsohn (Mechanical Engineering)
✓ Dr. Marilyn J. Blackwell (Germanic Languages and Literatures)
✓ Dr. Jay S. Hobgood (Geography)
✓ Dr. James W. Cogdell (Mathematics)  ✓ Dr. Robert J. Ward (Music)
✓ Dr. John W. Wilkins (Physics)  ✓ Dr. Kay N. Wolf (Allied Medical Professions)

Students:
Ms. Sarah K. Douglas (CGS, History)  Ms. Meghan Offenberger (IPC, Pharmacy)
Ms. Olga A. Isenberg (CGS, Business)
Mr. Benjamin T. Reinke (USG, Physics)  ✓ Mr. Adam Wagner (UGS, Political Science)

Administrators:
✓ Dr. W. Randy Smith, (Academic Affairs), Vice Chair

Guests:
Dr. Ann Christy (Faculty Fellow, Academic Affairs)
Dr. Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost)
Dr. Terry Gustafson (Associate Executive Dean, Arts and Sciences)
Dr. Kate Hallihan (Director, Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Office)
Mr. Brad Myers (University Registrar)
Mr. David L. Roy (Assistant Director, Enrollment Services)
Ms. Sarah Tokar-Lang (Academic Planning Specialist, College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. John Wanzer (Senior Assistant Vice Provost, Enrollment Services and Undergraduate Education)

The Council came to order at 3:03 PM

Hobgood moved approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2010 meeting and the motion was approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR JAY S. HOBGOOD

- Expressed thanks to Council members for their willingness to schedule additional Council meetings this Quarter to cover the heavy workload currently needing completed.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D—PROFESSORS JAY S. HOBGOOD AND W. RANDY SMITH

- Proposal to Establish the College of Arts and Sciences: Guest Professor James Rathman, Chair, Arts and Sciences Alteration Ad-hoc Committee.

Rathman provided an overview of the proposal and the process followed. The committee was appointed by this Council in Autumn 2009 to review the proposal to establish a unified College of Arts and Sciences. As prescribed by the University rules, this committee has been working over the past six months to evaluate the proposal, and in doing so, consult extensively with faculty, students and staff affected by the proposed alteration. The ad-hoc committee hosted two open forums on April 27 and 28, 2010, to provide an opportunity for interested arts and sciences faculty, staff and students to ask questions, and offer feedback. The ad-hoc committee will prepare a final report of its findings and recommendations by next week. Hobgood and Smith believed that it was important to start the discussion of the proposal at this meeting due to the complexity and importance of this process.

The ad-hoc committee worked with two documents:

- “Proposal to alter the Federation of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences and the five colleges comprising the Federation, to form a new administrative and educational unit called the College of Arts and Sciences,” by Joan Leitzel, Interim Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences, June 18, 2009;

- “A Summative Proposal to establish the College of the Arts and Sciences at the Ohio State University,” by Joseph Steinmetz, Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, April 12, 2010.

During the discussion that followed:

- Council members understood, as did the members of the ad-hoc committee, that there remain some unanswered questions about the details of how selected aspects of the new College will work, and that the development of the restructured College is ‘a work in progress and will remain so, for at least few years as new traditions, procedures and
policies are created with input from faculty and the College administration.” (Steinmetz, 2010). It was noted that the ad-hoc committee itself initially questioned the level of detail necessary for the proposal to go forward, to be supported, and be implementable, but believed that during the review process it gathered as much information as it could to better understand what was being proposed, and be satisfied with the level of detail provided.

- Council members asked for clarification on how the Promotion and Tenure committees will evolve during the restructuring, the status of Patterns of Administration, and how membership on the newly proposed Faculty Advisory Council will be determined. It was suggested that a summary of the already enacted changes (a centralized budget model, central staff for the five existing colleges has been reorganized, new roles for the divisional deans and associate deans have been articulated) and planned actions (faculty and staff advisory committees), would be helpful. While the importance of being able to specify process details was noted, it was also suggested that ensuring that “the right people are in the right places” was key to the success of this restructuring.

- Several Council members expressed the difficulty of having to work with two documents related to the proposal, and suggested the need for one unified document - a proposal.

Rathman noted that following reviews and actions by this Council, and the University Senate, Steinmetz plans to have a general framework for the reorganization of the Arts and Sciences by the end of the academic year, and hopes for a smooth transition to a unified College.

The Arts and Sciences Alteration Ad-hoc Committee’s final report should be received next week for continued discussion at the May 5, 2010 Council meeting. Rathman will attend, as will Executive Dean Joseph Steinmetz. At that time, the Council will determine whether the proposal is ready to be sent to the Faculty Council for discussion at its meeting on May 13, 2010. If it is, this Council will return to it for a vote on May 19, 2010.

There were no additional issues/concerns from members of the Council on Academic Affairs at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Liana Crisan-Vandeborne