COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

March 7, 2007

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Sheryl A. Barringer, Daniel E. Collins, Lora Gingerich Dobos, Marcia E. Farr, Richard P. Gunther, E. Kay Halasek, Nancy R. Reynolds, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), George J. Valco, and Brian L. Winer (Chair)

Student Members: Rose Babington (Undergraduate Student Government), Robert Calhoun and Jane Evans (Council of Graduate Students), and Sheila Rajashekara (Inter Professional Council).

Guests: Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean and Jessica Mercerhill, Director of Curriculum, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of University Registrar; David Roy, Senior Assistant Director, Enrollment Services, Undergraduate Admissions; Professors Sarah Iles Johnston, Department of Greek and Latin and Hugh Urban, Department of Comparative Studies; Professor M. Susie Whittington, Department of Human and Community Resource Development and Dr. Jill Pfister, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2007

• Action on the Minutes of the Meeting of February 27, 2007 will be delayed until the March 28, 2007 Council meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER

• Winer informed the Council that additional meetings on March 28 and April 11, 2007 will be needed to act on the proposals received from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and other undergraduate colleges so that both the University Senate and the Board of Trustees can consider them this academic year.
COMMENTS FROM THE VICE-CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- Smith informed the Council that the ASC Senate finished its discussion and approved a minimum of 181 hours to graduate for B.A. and B.S. degrees. Now the proposal from the ASC is ready to come to CAA for deliberation and approval.

- At its March 2, 2007 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the proposal to abolish the Center for Survey Research.

- A copy of the University Accreditation report will be sent to all the Council members soon. The report addresses the 5 core criteria for reaccreditation: mission and integrity; planning and resources; student learning and effective teaching; research; and outreach.

- Several issues concerning course and program concurrence have arisen in recent months, and he and Winer have worked on them. None has needed to come to this Council for resolution.

- Smith announced that Winer has received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. The award was presented to him in one of his classes on March 5, 2007 by Provost Snyder and others. Council members congratulated him on his receipt of this Award.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISHMENT THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION – PROFESSORS E. KAY HALASEK, CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE B

Halasek gave an overview of the proposal. The proposed Center for the Study of Religion identifies two primary objectives: (1) to encourage and support scholarly research in religion by the faculty members and graduate students at The Ohio State University, particularly within the College of Humanities; and (2) to reach out to the community. Subcommittee B discussed the proposal and requested a letter of support from John Roberts, Dean, College of Humanities, more detailed budget information, and a statement of space needs and plans. Dean Roberts sent a letter of support that addressed sufficiently questions of support, both fiscal and physical. Professor Johnston outlined to the satisfaction of the Subcommittee the budgetary questions it had raised in its correspondence with her. Subcommittee B unanimously recommends approval of the proposal.

Are there specific criteria to become a member of the Center?

In the organizational chart the oversight committee is shown “below” the Director of the center. Should the Oversight Committee be “above” the Director? Smith indicated that if a center is cross cutting through various disciplines, it is common to show the oversight
committee above the Director, but if it is within one college it will be below the Director of the Center.

The responsibilities of the oversight committee outlined are more advisory rather than oversight. What are the benchmarks for evaluation of the center? Will the center have periodic review although it is within a college?

DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSORS SARAH ILES JOHNSTON, DEPARTMENT OF GREEK AND LATIN AND HUGH URBAN, DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE STUDIES.

Johnston gave an overview of the proposal. We have rich faculty resources in religious studies. The excellence of these resources is demonstrated by faculty members’ high publication rate, their frequent sponsorship of and participation in international conferences and invitations to edit foundation research resources within the field. Currently, interaction and consolidated efforts amongst faculty members occur by chance. Several grass-roots, informal programs including the current “Program for the Study of Religions” have existed over the years, but their lack of financial resources, administrative help, and official recognition have impeded their success. Through its role as a convener and organizer of both existing and new resources, the Center would encourage faculty and graduate students to build on and expand beyond present strengths through collaborative projects. Ohio State virtually stands alone in lacking both a department of religious studies and a center for the study of religion. Establishing a center will enhance the reputation of the college and the university. Ohio State has the resources and potential to create a program that is likely to bring us quickly into the National Research Council’s (NRC) ranking of the top twenty programs in religious studies. Johnston added that the center does not have a curricular function.

Will faculty be given blanket membership in the center? They would like to include as many faculty as possible. Any regular members of the faculty of the University may ask to become faculty affiliates of the Center. The purpose of the affiliate group is threefold. First, its existence and publication shall improve knowledge among faculty members of what their colleagues are working on so as to encourage collaborative work. Second, it will provide a pool of resources on which the Director of the Center and his/her advisors can draw for advice and help as they create programming. Third, it will serve as a database for the Center and the College to use when outside agencies seek expert advice on religion. The members can participate to what every degree they wish.

What are the benchmarks for evaluation? Johnston indicated that it was their belief that when evaluating the administrators, the center will be automatically evaluated. However, they could have people from other institutions in a similar capacity evaluate the center. Valco suggested the need for the Center to articulate clearly the areas that will be evaluated.
Smith will clearly indicate in his communication with Johnston and Urban that they should send specific criteria for the evaluation of the Center to Halasek before the proposal is sent to the University Senate on April 12, 2007 for its action.

Subcommittee B moved approval of the proposal as amended. It was seconded by Reynolds. The motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF ITS BOOK 3 HEADING, UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE MAJORS, AND PERMACUN, TO AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION - PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE B**

Winer gave an overview of the proposal. The Department of Human and Community Resource Development requests a change in the name of its undergraduate major, Agricultural Education, and its graduate program, Rural Sociology, to Agricultural and Extension Education. The name change more accurately reflects the disciplinary content of the programs both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Book 3 heading will change from Agricultural Education to Agricultural and Extension Education and the permanent academic unit number (PERMACUN) will change from AGR EDUC to AEE. The department name will remain as Human and Community Resource Development.

**DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR M. SUSIE WHITTINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND DR. JILL PFISTER, ASSISTANT DEAN, COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

Pfister and Whittington gave an overview of the proposal. The Department of Human and Community Resource Development wants to change the name of its Book 3 Heading, undergraduate and graduate majors, and PERMACUN, to Agricultural and Extension Education, thus merging Agricultural Education and Extension Education programs within the department. This merger will create a common core of required courses at each degree level. The proposed revision in the Book 3 Heading and PERMACUN will improve the visibility of Extension Education which has been a significant component of the current Agricultural Education program. The proposed change in the name of the graduate major will more accurately reflect the disciplinary content of the degree program. The Human and Community Resource Development (HCRD) graduate degree name was a compromise created to accommodate the interests of the Rural Sociology program after it was transferred into HCRD. However, Rural Sociology has been approved to offer named graduate degrees (M.S. and Ph.D. in Rural Sociology) since then. The proposed graduate degree name change will more accurately reflect the academic focus of the respective degree programs in Agricultural and Extension Education. There will not be any change in the curriculum.
What happens to Teacher Education with the name change? There were three tracks in Agricultural Education: General Education, Teacher Education, and Extension Education. All three will fall under Agricultural and Extension Education.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Collins and carried unanimously.


• Update on 181 Hours – Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences

Adelson gave an update on what happened at the ASC Senate meeting on February 28, 2007. The original expectation was for the B.S. to align with the B.A degree requirements and to reduce the graduation requirement to 181 hours. For the B.A. degree the net reduction came from 5 hours from the General Education Curriculum (GEC) and 5 hours from electives. In the proposed B.S. template recommended by the ad hoc committee chaired by Professor David Andereck, Associate Dean, College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, issues about dropping a foreign language requirement (the 104 course) and adding a mathematics component to the “breadth” requirement emerged.

At the February 28, 2007 ASC Senate meeting, foreign language 104 was added back in the skills area, mathematics was removed; and a capstone course (597), and statistics courses that are 400 or above, were added to the student selected category. The ASC Senate passed a minimum requirement of 181 credit hours for both B.A. and B.S. with these amendments to the B.S. template.

Gunther, who is an ASC Senator, expressed some of his concerns about the potential impact of these actions taken, but acknowledged that compromises were made to come to consensus on the 181 hours.

Smith informed the Council that he will begin meeting with health science and professional colleges to work on their GEC templates.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta