

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
3:30 p.m., Monday, 14 April 2008
2241 Chamberlin Hall

1. Announcements and Questions
 - a. Dean Sandefur invited nominations for faculty to serve on the L&S Academic Planning Council. Dean Sandefur provided an overview of the council's work, which is discussed in greater detail in the report provided as L&S FacDoc 275.
 - b. The dean asked members of the Senate to participate in a discussion with the Classified staff Issues Committee regarding the relationship between faculty and staff.
 - c. Dean Sandefur extended congratulations to faculty members who had recently won awards, including:
 - Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awards:
 - David T. Canon (Political Science)
 - Edward Friedman (Political Science)
 - Anthony R. Ives (Zoology)
 - M. Lou Roberts (History)
 - Robert L. Wilson (Mathematics)
 - William H. Kiekhofe Distinguished Teaching Award
 - Kelley Conway (Communication Arts)
 - Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award
 - Diane C. Gooding (Psychology)
 - Hilldale Award in the Arts and Humanities
 - Bob Skloot (Theatre & Drama and Jewish Studies)
 - Kellett Mid Career Awards:
 - Ken Goldstein (Political Science)
 - Harry Brighthouse (Philosophy)
 - Mark Ediger (Chemistry)
 - Romnes Faculty Fellowships:
 - Laura Schwendinger (Music)
 - Alexander Inoescu (Mathematics)
 - Michel Guillot (Sociology)
 - Jeremi Suri (History)
 - Emily Stanley (Zoology)
 - L&S Academic Advising Award:
 - Gloria Mari Beffa (Mathematics)
 - Guggenheim awards:
 - Laura L. Kiessling (Chemistry)
 - Laura Elise Schwendinger (Music)
 - Gary Shiu (Physics)
 - Barbara (Bobbi) Wolfe (Economics, LaFollette, Public Health)

The dean also noted that two L&S programs had been ranked highly in the annual *US News and World Report* (LaFollette School of Public Affairs was 14th out of 261, and the School of Library and Information Studies was 11th out of 50). He concluded by noting the successes of our alumni and students, reporting that two UW alumni (David Umhoefer and Walt Bogdanich) have won Pulitzer prizes, and that Jeffrey Wright, a senior political science and international studies major, had been awarded a Truman Scholarship.

There were no questions.

2. Minutes of the last L&S Faculty Senate meeting, which was held on November 12 of last year were approved.
3. Professor Snowden (Psychology) presented the Annual Report of the Faculty Honors Committee, 2005-2006 (L&S Faculty Document 274-rev). Highlights of the report include: the program's upcoming 50th anniversary; the move into the remodeled Washburn Observatory; and changes to the curriculum and to advising. Most significantly, the Faculty Honors Committee has approved a plan to "rethink what it means to be an Honors student", particularly as the quality of students admitted to UW-Madison continues to improve. Under the new system, every admitted student will be invited to consider joining the program; admission decisions will be based on student essays, with admission based on the extent to which the student demonstrates intellectual curiosity, a desire to use his or her intellect to help the world, creativity, passion, social awareness, etc. An additional feature of this process will be to recruit a more diverse group of students than have been recruited using ACT scores. Senators had no questions regarding the report, which was unanimously approved.
4. Dean Sandefur presented the Annual Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council has been circulated as L&S Faculty Document 275, noting that the council had completed several program reviews and had approved several new academic programs in the past year. There were no questions regarding the report, acceptance of which was unanimously approved.
5. Professor Frantzen (Spanish and Portuguese) presented the Annual Report of the Curriculum Committee, 2007-2008 is presented as L&S Faculty Document 276. In addition to the committee's usual business related to approval of courses and changes to existing academic programs, the report addressed implementation of the changes to the L&S baccalaureate degree requirements, which went into effect for students admitted after May 21, 2007. Decisions related to implementation included consideration of courses offered outside L&S to be approved as "Liberal Arts and Science (LAS)" courses and changes to the calculations used to determine eligibility for the L&S Dean's list.

The Curriculum Committee also conducted an in-depth study of several questions related to the use of Directed Study courses. The full report and recommendations to the dean are appended to the committee's annual report. The committee considered such

questions as whether or not limits should be placed on credits earned in Directed Study courses and if the College should “standardize” expectations regarding the type and quantity of work performed for these courses. In addition to endorsing existing L&S academic policy related to Directed Study, the committee determined that since a very small number of students take more than 3 directed study courses (and those who take more may have good reason to do so), there is justification for imposing limits at this time. Furthermore, since the range or opportunities pursued in these courses varies widely, the committee endorsed a principle that encourages development of commonly-held expectations for courses at the departmental level; at most, the college should share the results of the committee’s survey and provide more information about what might be done, if only to encourage more faculty to participate in offering Directed Study. Finally, the committee enthusiastically supports the principles of offering intensive, mentored learning experiences to students, who attain lifelong learning skills in the course of working directly with members of the faculty to pursue projects focused on issues they find important.

In discussion, senators asked whether there are students who take “too much” directed study. Assistant Dean Elaine Klein extracted data from the report to reiterate that this does not seem to be a problem; however, L&S Student Academic Affairs is examining more closely the records of a few students in the sample who earned more than 10% of their credits in these courses. Professor Oliver observed that, to the contrary, there seem to be too few opportunities to pursue this sort of experience, and that more members of the faculty should be encouraged to accept students in these courses. Dean Sandefur concurred, but acknowledged that good projects take a lot of time for students and faculty. Professor Cowell asked if incentives might encourage more faculty to accept directed study students; the dean wondered if the rewards of participating might be enough.

The senate approved the committee’s report, and recommended to the dean acceptance of the committee’s recommendations regarding improved communication on this topic. Dean Sandefur noted that the college will work to develop resources to share information about the use of directed study. He thanked Professor Frantzen and the committee for their efforts to understand this issue and to make useful recommendations; he also thanked the faculty for having responded so well to the committee’s survey about their practices.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elaine M. Klein, Ph.D.

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Secretary, L&S Senate