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**COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**Monday, November 12, 2012 3:45 p.m.**  
**168 Noland Hall**

23 Senators signed in. Dean Sandefur chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

1. Announcements, Updates and Questions

- a. The L&S Senate previously reviewed and discussed a proposal to create a new College of the Arts. In addition to that meeting, in May 2012 Dean Sandefur convened a meeting of the L&S Faculty to solicit additional questions and comment, and to discuss the proposal. About 60 members of the faculty attended. The L&S Academic Planning Council has also held a focused discussion of the topic, meeting with proposal sponsors, the chair and director of affected L&S departments, and faculty members from one of the departments that had a divided vote. (Documents related to these discussions, as well as summaries of them, appear in the meeting materials.) The University Committee has directed the Budget Office to develop a budget to clarify the funds needed and source of support for the proposed College. No action will be taken on this until we have a better idea of the costs. In discussion, the senator from the School of Music asked Dean Sandefur to clarify that resources to support the proposal would need to come external sources, rather than from base budgets of departments involved. Dean Sandefur agreed that this would be the goal. The next question was asked about “cross-enrollment in majors”, and whether L&S BA/BS students could continue to major in Music; Assistant Dean for Academic Planning Elaine Klein responded that the faculty in the new college would need to develop degree requirements for its programs, but that major requirements could be written to allow L&S students to double-major in CotA programs, and for CotA majors to double-major in L&S programs.
- b. Dean Sandefur provided an update on current leadership position searches (Chancellor, Dean of L&S), both of which are under way.
- c. The Human Resource Design project has been discussed extensively at the Faculty Senate, as well as by a joint meeting of the Academic Staff Executive Committee and the University Committee. Although there are many details to be finalized, Dean Sandefur expressed support for the core changes that were recommended, stating his belief that these are important for the university, where it is essential to hire train and reward faculty and staff. Importantly, this is a “once in a lifetime” opportunity: if the UW-Madison community is unable to develop a viable proposal, it is unlikely to be offered another opportunity to do so. In discussion, Charity Schmidt (graduate student, Sociology) requested and was granted permission to speak. She recommended that the plan be postponed, and that a number of people believe the current plan would have detrimental consequences for staff and graduate assistants. She asked permission to circulate materials provided by the union so senators might be more informed. One senator (Music) observed that the plan takes staff into account, and that it is important to come to an agreement. Another senator noted that it was important to work with unions and staff to be sure that the request has support, and that some delay was reasonable.
- d. The campus is working to develop a new model for allocating resources at the School/College level, to replace the current model, in which allocations are based on previous years’ budgets. The new model is being developed based on contributions to university’s mission. This would be to the benefit of units that bring in an revenue through teaching (as L&S does). Dean Sandefur and Associate Dean for Social Sciences and Fiscal Initiatives Maria Cancian are members of the core team working on this project. In discussion, members asked several questions. The model will be presented for public discussion when it is complete; the model currently under discussion includes many factors, but is geared toward allocation of 101/GPR dollars; the model, when extended by deans to department levels, may reveal more clearly where cross-subsidies occur; and finally, the model “will not drive decisions, but will provide data to inform decision-making”.
- e. A number of “Educational Innovations” are under way. This means that the university and College are encouraging departments to make proposals about ways to do things differently, with the goal of generating new revenue that can be reinvested. These changes should be inspired by the desire to sustain the quality of our academic programs, research programs, and service to the state.

- f. There were no additional questions for the Dean.
2. Notes of the L&S Faculty Senate meeting March 26, 2012 were approved.
  3. The Report of the Faculty Honors Committee (L&S Faculty Document 288) was presented by Professor Sissel Schroeder (Anthropology), the Director of the Honors Program. She summarized the report, and noted that the program is quite vibrant. The revisions to admissions procedures that were approved a few years ago have reduced the size of the program to better align with staffing resources. The new procedures also help ensure that students are motivated and interested in the program. The program has instituted a new undergraduate honors research symposium, which is likely to have donor support. There were no questions about the report, and a motion to accept it was unanimously approved. Dean Sandefur extended thanks to Professor Schroeder, her predecessor, Professor Chuck Snowdon (Psychology), and to the Faculty Honors Committee for the work they do to help ensure that L&S offers rich learning experiences for our most motivated and skilled students.
  4. Dean Sandefur presented the Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council (L&S Faculty Document 289), another report that represents the work of a group that works hard on behalf of the college. He added that since the report was prepared, the APC had accepted the proposal of the Department of Comparative Literature and the Folklore Program to restructure and merge, to become the “Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies”. The council praised the careful and consultative process these units used while they were preparing the proposal, which will be forwarded to the University Academic Planning Council and reported to the Faculty Senate.  
There were no questions or comments about this report. A motion to accept the report was unanimously approved.
  5. Professor Diane Gooding (Psychology), the former Chair of the L&S Curriculum Committee, presented the Report of the L&S Curriculum Committee (L&S Faculty Document 290). She summarized the role of the committee, and highlighted several tasks undertaken by the committee in 2011-12, including developing a college-wide plan to assess student learning, review of college policies related to the Directed Study, working with campus partners to implement the new online interface for submitting proposals to add, change or delete courses, and the review and approval of substantial changes to academic programs. She led a focused discussion of the college-wide assessment plan for undergraduate education; five learning outcomes were identified, and notably, the committee articulated general expectations for courses that carry L&S Breadth Designations, for purposes of supporting liberal education. Throughout, she emphasized, the goal is to foster critical thinking, communication, and “learning about the process and application of learning”. This work will set the stage for future assessment of student learning at the level of the degree, which will complement the work departments and programs are doing to assess learning within the major or certificate.  
In discussion, senators suggested revision to the descriptions proposed for the various breadth areas, pointing out disparities in the way the various “Ways of Knowing” are discussed. Recommendations included: making the language for Humanities/Literature/Arts parallel to terms used for the Natural, Biological, Physical, and Social Sciences; making formats parallel (bullet points); ensuring that distinctions are drawn between Biological and Physical sciences, chiefly by ensuring that Biology includes the study of life and living things; emphasize the different ways these broad divisions acquire and use data; explaining the ‘interdivisional’ designations differently. These recommendations will be incorporated and presented to the Committee for final approval.  
A motion to accept the report and its contents was unanimously approved. Dean Sandefur thanked Professor Gooding and the committee for its work, and in particular, for developing a plan for assessing student learning, which is a requirement for continued accreditation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Ph.D., Secretary  
Assistant Dean for Academic Planning