

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE FACULTY MEETING
Dean Gary Sandefur, Chair
April 30, 2012
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
165 Bascom Hall

MEETING LOGISTICS:

As people entered the meeting, they were asked to complete forms (Attachment A) to indicate the role in which they were attending the meeting (faculty, staff, student, observer) and their position (if any) on the formation of a CotA and whether they wished to speak. The forms included space to write comments in lieu of spoken comments. The forms were collected and sorted according to the desire to speak, and whether the speaker's comments were in support of, opposition to, or observations on the proposal. L&S faculty were allowed to speak first; when all of the faculty speakers had their turns, others were allowed to speak. To the extent possible, the order of speaking alternated between speakers' perspectives. Forms were numbered and given to the chair. (People were allowed to change their minds about speaking as well, and this happened in a few cases so that some people spoke who indicated on the form that they would not be speaking.) Speakers were allowed three minutes; a few went over time and were asked to bring their remarks to an end. Comments on all forms will be attached to this record of the meeting (Attachment B). To further encourage comment, the dean's email address (dean@ls.wisc.edu) was provided on a screen at the front of the room. Comments received by email will also be summarized and attached to this record of the meeting (Attachment C).

MEETING SUMMARY:

The meeting was called to order at 3:45, Dean Sandefur presiding.

Dean Sandefur began by explaining that this meeting was convened as a "Consultation of the Dean" for purposes of gathering the views of the Faculty on a proposal that is, in essence, a procedural faculty hearing concerning a proposal to establish a new college-level unit at UW-Madison, the College of the Arts (CotA). If approved, this proposal would be likely to have a significant impact on the College, and as such, consultation with the faculty is required per *Faculty Policies and Procedures*. Several documents were provided as background materials for this meeting:

- The full proposal to create a College of the Arts, as presented for discussion with the L&S Senate (L&S Senate FacDoc287);
- The memoranda from L&S units, concerning formal votes taken in the Department of Art History, the School of Music, and the Department of Theatre and Drama;
- Less formal reports of decisions made by other arts-related L&S programs, specifically, the Film Production group in the Department of Communication Arts, and the Creative Writing faculty in the Department of English (no response was offered by the Chazen Museum of Art); and
- Notes of L&S Senate meeting, held on March 26, 2012.

An additional document was circulated to attendees by representatives of the Arts Institute.

Dean Sandefur expressed hope that everyone present had taken time to review these materials, discuss the proposal and drawn their own conclusions about the proposal. If approved, two units that have submitted majority votes to become part of the proposed college would leave L&S, hence the proposal will have an

impact on the structure of L&S, as well as on the array of L&S academic programs courses. It is therefore a matter on which the dean must confer with the faculty.

Dean Sandefur then reviewed the logistics of the meeting, and invited the first speakers to address him and the assembly. He noted that the purpose of the meeting is not to ask questions to solicit answers, but that questions would be documented as part of the discussion. To the extent possible, answers would be provided. The main purpose of the meeting, he stressed, was for the faculty (and, time permitting, others in attendance) to offer their perspectives.

- Professor John Stevens (Director, School of Music) addressed the issue of the divided vote in the School of Music. He noted that he appreciated the closeness of the vote, which reflects the careful consideration given to the proposal.
- Professor Ann Archbold (Chair, Theatre and Drama) noted that her department's divided vote consisted of a majority vote and several abstentions, which, in her view, reflected the perspective that while some of her colleagues approve of the idea of a CotA, they did not consider moving into a new college "right" for them. The abstentions reflect openness to the idea, not opposition to it. She observed that peer institutions have Colleges of the Arts, and that having this structure would align UW-Madison with peers.
- Professor Michael Peterson (Theater Research) expressed ambivalence, seeing in the proposal value, in that it may be easier to advocate for the arts with this structure; however, he expressed concern that a CotA might make it easier for practicing artists to separate themselves from others, and suggested that creating better connections across divides is something that could be pursued under the current structure.
- Professor R. Anderson Sutton (Ethnomusicology) expressed concern that the vote came much sooner than expected or desired, and that some matters – such as a division among the faculty, with some remaining in L&S and others moving to a CotA – had not been considered at all. He also expressed concern about funding the new college during these difficult budget times.
- Professor Patrick Sims (Theatre & Drama) called the creation of CotA "essential", noting that there are clear curricular benefits to students, and that there have been stumbling blocks in place for years that have made it a challenge to create a college prior to this time. Though many details must be sorted out (including funding sources and budget), the proposal was developed at the request of the Provost and Chancellor, and should be seriously considered.
- Professor Brian Hyer (Music Theory) stated that he had lots of questions, most of which had to do with funding. He expressed concern that the leadership had failed to answer questions about funding, and called for a more open discussion of the budget and the fiscal impact of the proposal.
- Professor Uri Vardi, (Music) expressed strong support for the proposal, praising the opportunities that a CotA would create for interdisciplinary study across the arts. The current structure across colleges make this challenging to pursue, and it is increasingly important (and indeed, the trend) for musicians to work with many types of artists and colleagues. He also encouraged further discussion in split departments to further understand concerns of faculty that did not want to move, and see if any of those concerns could be addressed.
- Professor Michael Schatzberg (Political Science) expressed concern about the ambiguity reflected in the divided votes, noting that as a political scientist, such division suggests subtleties in perspective that may not be evident in a simple vote. He also asked whether a CotA would consider a new trend that perceives athletes as "performers".
- Professor Stephanie Jutt (Music) noted that she had been "struck" by the difficulty in getting scholarship funding to support students in the arts at UW-Madison, and that a CotA would help

solve that and several other problems (facilities, advocacy for the arts). She encouraged her colleagues in the research side to consider those benefits, and reminded them that the votes, though divided, favored creation of a CotA and movement of the departments to the new college.

- Mimmi Fulmer (Music) spoke as a practitioner in the arts who had voted against the proposal, noting that the School of Music had already incurred a deficit that would need to be repaid to L&S; in the current fiscal climate, the SoM has lost TAs and faculty lines; the budget for the new CotA is uncertain, and the SoM would certainly lose the financial support offered by L&S. She asked if it weren't possible to overcome structural and administrative hurdles in a more modest way, rather than taking the step of creating a new unit.
- Professor Sabine Gross (German) expressed strong support for the creation of a CotA, citing three reasons: first, though financial times are hard, this may be the time to make bold decisions; second, she expressed hope that L&S students would still be able to take courses outside L&S, in the new CotA; and third, she expressed hope that this change would address the perceived inequities in decision-making involving the arts faculty, with respect to tenure cases, research awards, etc.
- Professor Susan Cook (Music), who spoke from her perspective as the Grad School Assoc Dean for the Humanities, challenged the suggestion that the Arts faculty are disadvantaged in the research competitions mentioned above. Her analysis of Graduate School awards revealed parity with other Humanities departments. However, some departments do better than others, which is the case across all divisions. This may result in a perceived imbalance.
- Professor John Schaeffer (Music) challenged the idea that there are factions within the SoM; the divisions in the vote were not so simple as might be assumed. He also agreed that the current financial climate will be a challenge, but noted that the SoM will face budget reductions whether or not there is a CotA.
- Professor Pam Potter (Music) elaborated on the divided vote in Music, noting that it did not represent a simple division between academic research faculty and applied/performance faculty. The votes crossed lines, and were more complex than can be assumed by those categories. She also noted that the idea of a CotA consolidating Arts faculty in one college is not accurate – these faculty will still be spread across three colleges. Finally, because the Divisional Executive Committee structure is not changing, challenges (real or perceived) related to tenure cases and research awards will persist, and will not be resolved by a CotA structure.
- Professor Lee Blasius (Music) expressed concern about creating another small college, which may be a problem for this unit in the future, particularly in tight budget times.

At this point, all faculty members who had indicated a desire to speak had done so. Dean Sandefur therefore invited several others to offer comment.

- Michele L. (student) expressed appreciation for the mentoring she had received in T&D, but noted that she was unable to take classes in the School of Music as she had desired to do. She also noted that it would be useful to her to take courses in Dance or Art, as well, and advocated for the rights of students to take these courses if desired.
- Andrea K. (graduate student) expressed strong support. She noted that she had found it difficult to reach out and work collaboratively with other artists in different graduate programs, and would appreciate the more interdisciplinary structure that might be available were a CotA to be created.
- Carol C (student) described her work in developing an interdisciplinary, collaborative recital across the arts, which would have been easier were there a stronger community for collaboration among artists. A CotA might be a way to accomplish this.

- Max W. (student) endorsed the idea that the future of art will be highly interdisciplinary and collaborative, and a unified CotA would help with this.
- Professor Manon VandeWater (T&D) described her difficulties pursuing interdisciplinary studies in the Netherlands, in a way that would connect performance with theory. She values the capacity the current structure of a department with research scholars and performers has in allowing her to make such connections, and expressed hope that a CotA would afford similar opportunities.
- J. L. (student) stated that it would be useful to be able to take classes in Dance, and have those classes meet requirements.
- Professor Lea Jacobs (Comm Arts) expressed the hope that a CotA would create a better atmosphere for artists on campus, and that in time the criteria for valuing the work of artists and performers would be better defined and they would be better able to evaluate each other. A CotA might help resolve those matters.

There were no further comments offered.

Dean Sandefur thanked everyone present, and in particular, thanked those people who had sharing their observations or offered comment in writing. He noted that these comments would be reported to the L&S Academic Planning Council at the May 1, 2012 meeting. He noted that the APC meeting would include discussions with the Director of the Arts Institute, the Chair of T&D and Director of SoM, and others who could help the council better understand the divided vote. The APC will make a recommendation representing the collective wisdom of the faculty, which the Dean will share with the Chancellor. The goal will be to arrive at a recommendation that represents the perspective of the College, and which attempts to maximize the benefit of all parties involved.

The meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Klein, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean and Secretary of the L&S Faculty