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**COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Monday, March 10, 2014 3:45 p.m.**

**B10 Ingraham Hall**

*Accepted by L&S Senate as accurate record of the meeting, 11/24/2014*

35 Senators attended. Dean Scholz chaired the meeting, calling it to order at 3:45 p.m.

1. Announcements, updates, and questions.
  - a. Dean Scholz congratulated several members of the faculty and their departments for recent success competing for “Educational Innovations” funding. These funds will be used to update courses and expand academic programming.
  - b. Faculty were encouraged to compete in Phase II of UW-Madison’s entry into the world of “Massive Open Online Courses”.
  - c. The Center for the Humanities issued a call for proposals for the A.W. Mellon Foundation sponsored Interdisciplinary Workshops in the Humanities. The Dean noted that L&S Admin frequently circulates this sort of information to the faculty via chairs and directors, with a request to pass information on to their colleagues.
  - d. Finalists for Provost have been announced; Dean Scholz encouraged Senators to participate actively in the selection process.
  - e. Questions and Discussion
    - i. When asked if L&S had a position on raising out of state tuition, Dean Scholz responded that campus is working on a proposal that could include out of state tuition increases for professional schools. Senators discussed the use of tuition revenue to support financial aid and increase grad student stipends. A new/different budget model might help equalize resources across the units; as those discussions proceed, the Dean is working to ensure that L&S contributions are recognized and that the college has a good advocate.
    - ii. Senators asked if better compensation for TAs is being discussed, noting that UW is falling behind; this will likely be a high priority for the next dean of the Graduate School. Another factor to consider is that departments must work to ensure that graduate programs are the appropriate size. Some departments have reinvested resources to reduce the size of their graduate programs and reallocate savings to support larger stipends. This won’t work for all departments (e.g., where graduate students affect faculty research productivity) but departments can discuss proposals with their associate deans.
2. Dean Scholz made a formal presentation about the state of the college, summarizing various features of the current environment (largest ever first-year class, changes in university leadership, discussion of a new budget model, ongoing comprehensive campaign). Four values drive the college forward: L&S is a research powerhouse, generates life changing learning experiences for our students, ensures that all students have a liberal arts experience, and extends the benefit of UW-Madison. Noting that an education in the liberal arts serves students and society in important ways, Dean Scholz

introduced his “L&S Career Initiative”, which seeks to connect the skills of liberal education to the world of work and life after college. The initiative attends not only to the practical realities of helping graduates think about their education and connect it to gainful employment, but it also creates opportunities for L&S to connect with alumni, to recruit them to help us help our students as mentors, in networks, and in other ways. The dean concluded optimistically that while many changes are underway, he is optimistic about the future.

4. Notes of the 12 November 2012 L&S Faculty Senate meeting were approved by a voice vote.
5. Dean Scholz presented the Report of the L&S Academic Planning Council (L&S Faculty Document 291) covered activities from 2012-2013. In that period, the council approved several “Educational Innovations”, including new named options in Economics, Mathematics, and Computer Sciences; and new Capstone certificate in Political Science. The final plans for merger of Comparative Literature and Folklore Program were approved, as were administrative changes for the undergraduate Biology Major, which moved academic administration out of the Institute for Biology Education and into departments in CALS and L&S. To facilitate more effective cross-college oversight of shared programs, the L&S and CALS Curriculum Committees and APCs will hold cross-college meetings to discuss jointly held programs. Finally, several academic program reviews of certificate programs were completed, and many more reviews were convened under the new, streamlined, L&S guidelines for program review.
6. Professor John Hawks, Chair of the L&S Curriculum Committee, was unexpectedly unable to present the annual report of that committee (L&S Faculty Document 292). Assistant Dean Elaine Klein summarized the 2012-2013 committee activity, noting that (a) there were 496 proposals to add, change, or delete courses in L&S (nearly half of which were submitted by the Department of English, which has completed a multi-year project to renumber its course array); (b) a subcommittee had submitted a report to Dean Sandefur concerning concerning Distance/Online education; (c) a proposal to engage in a substantial L&S assessment project had been proposed, but was not funded; and (d) the committee revised L&S Policy on Undergraduate Directed Study to align with Campus Policy, which limits each instructor to no more than 40 credits of undergraduate directed study, establishes consistent deadlines for enrollment and expectations that study plans will be on file with department office.
7. Dr. Jennifer Kauffman-Buehler, Assistant Director of the Honors Program, presented the Report of the Faculty Honors Committee (L&S Faculty Document 293). In 2012-2013, the program changed its admissions deadlines and process to allow Fall or Spring term application, began using the campus-wide “Scholarships@UW” portal for student applications for honors thesis grants, and reviewed the requirements for all Honors in the Major programs (departments will be contacted if they need to align program requirements with current standards). Overall, the program is continuing its efforts to ensure that highly motivated students are challenged with an “honors” experience.

The above reports were approved in omnibus motion.

8. Discussion and Q&A (all reports)
  - a. Why is there a limit on teaching no more than 40 credit hours of undergraduate directed study? This aspect of directed study was being abused (and, at other institutions, has led to NCAA violations). Group instruction course numbers should be created to capture instruction that occurs in research groups.
  - b. A new campus budget model will affect how the college will allocate resources among departments; has any modeling been done to predict how departments/programs will be affected? The new budget model has not been finalized, but if approved will move from campus to college level. L&S is getting prepared for these considerations (the Budget Status Reports are an important feature).
  - c. Senators noted that the campus Climate report and recommendations had been circulated by the Dean's office, asking about priorities. Dean Scholz noted that the report includes several recommendations about improving the workplace experience, from raising pay to promoting civility and respectful treatment for all employees. The L&S APC approved the recommendations of the ad hoc L&S Climate Committee, including recommendations about what departments can do to improve climate. Tools for improving climate are on L&S Gateway. Suggestions were offered to allow/encourage Ombuds office to do more, if more can be done without initiating formal grievance procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Submitted by

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Secretary of the L&S Faculty