

CLAS Faculty Council 9/26/16

Meeting called to order at 11:15am

Members present: Valeria Kleiman (Chemistry), Chuck Peek (Soc/Crim & Law), Aida Hozic (Political Sci), Gillian Lord (SPS), Nina Cupto (History), Leah Rosenberg (English), Valerie DeLeon (Anthro), Vassiliki Smocovitis (Biology), Lance Gravlee (Anthro), Theresa Antes (LLC), Anthony Gonzalez (Astronomy), A. Forte (Geology)

1. presentation by Dean Dave Richardson

Facts, figures and faculty hiring

Not all facts are reproduced here!

- 11,255 majors in CLAS (plus some double majors)
- 35% of all UF undergrad degrees (2900)
(CLAS has done an admirable job of retaining # of students, given college situation)
- Hiring summary for AY 15-16
- 15 TT hires, inc 3 preem
- 12 regular non tt hires
- 3 advising hires
- 5 other non tt hires (UFO, grant)

Preeminence summary

- 28 authorizations, 18 hires to date
- CLAS: Creative writing (2), Lat Am Dev (2), Nanomedicine (2), Pub Health Social Change Africa (2), Mathematical Modeling of Disease (2)
- Others in the works (Informatics, Neuroscience, Plant Genomics, Metabolomics, Biodiversity, Cancer Research)

Strategic Plan, mission and goals

- Goals and objectives stay the same, but each year our focus changes
- DR proposes developing yearly action plans rather than 5-year strategic plan

Budget overview

- State Funding (net spendable \$115M/year)
- Research Funding (\$35-45M/year total direct and indirect)
- Endowments and Gifts
- Budget summary as of July 1 indicates that we are budgeted to spend \$106.5M, when we have \$100M in appropriations. Given additional funding (attrition, salary savings, good life, UFO, etc.) college will generate additional \$5.3M, leaving the college about \$1.1M "in the red".

- Questions about attrition – who is leaving, who is being replaced, and how? DR’s intention is to authorize junior searches on the basis of attrition (new jr faculty market rate is comparable to those who are retiring); will talk further about attrition/hiring at a future meeting.

UF CORE

(Not to be confused with the State Gen Ed core (<http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/state-gen-ed-core.aspx>))

- Preeminence bill authorizes UF to offer up to 9 credits that would be required of all incoming UF students – set as an exception to the AP requirement (i.e., no incoming test credits can fulfill these 9 required hours)
- The Good Life course is the first of those. The development of the other courses was put on hold due to changes in president, provost’s office, and issues faced by IUF1000 when scaling up. The other two courses that had been approved were Climate Change (science) and People & Data (social science); they have been taught in trial sections, but the ‘scale up’ of those courses has not really been considered; difficulty even getting enrollment in trial courses.
- Dr. Lindner (Assoc. Provost) renewed attention to the CORE concept. By end of Spring 2016 task forces were formed for aspects of the core; worked over summer; informed Council of Associate Deans that it would be moving forward toward implementation with the proposed name change of “UF QUEST” (logo of a blue boat on an orange sea...).
- DR’s view is that this is challenged, for a number of reasons...
 - The CLAS needs to have a strong/dominant voice in this kind of thing, given that we are the ones tasked with general education.
 - This program should be *faculty driven*. Learning outcomes need to be course-specific rather than generic.
 - Recognizes that this is not a binary decision, he’s willing to give IUF some more time, wants to expand our experiential learning, etc. In terms of bringing in the further core experience, he will not fight against it but will suggest that faculty consider what an alternative approach might be that can help some of the concerns.
- Look at U Texas state core (<http://ugs.utexas.edu/sig>)
 - “signature courses”: different sections of UGS302 and 303 fill gen ed requirements without being inherently discipline specific.
 - “introduces first-year students to the university’s academic community through the exploration of new interests.”
 - UT has over 220 course offerings under this label.
 - All undergrad students are required to take ONE signature course.
 - All courses require the following outcomes (according to website): interdisciplinary and contemporary content; writing; oral communication; information literacy; gems of the university (e.g., museums, libraries, etc.); lecture series; distinguished faculty; critical thinking
 - Texas is one of many models along the same lines

- Discussion of potential models, problems, solutions, etc.

2. Chairs and directors evaluation

- DR and Theresa Antes met last week and DR has approved of the format
- Timeline is to send out the survey to chairs by early October for them to add their specific questions
- DR wanted to take out the question that is only for dean's eyes (not chair's), that there isn't information that would come out this way that WOULD NOT have come out through the Likerts. Council generally feels that it is very important to keep it in – also that we need to convince DR that those comments, even anonymous, are potentially useful. Analogy to journal editors (comments for authors, comments for editor only)? But not the same because of anonymity. Council believes that faculty who are feeling pressure need some way to access the dean. Possible compromise – ask people who have those dean-only comments to please give name/email for possible future follow up from the dean?
- Also worth considering – will the results be made public? Could they be requested by the freedom of information? Are they personnel evaluation? We need to ask Angel about this?
- We may need to revise timeline – need to get answers to these questions before sending out.

3. Approval of August 2016 minutes postponed until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50