MINUTES
Faculty Assembly, School of Liberal Arts
2:00-4:00pm   Friday, March 1, 2013   LE 105


1. The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm by Faculty Assembly President Enrica Ardemagni.

2. President Ardemagni made general remarks.

3. The minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Dean's remarks:  Dean Blomquist thanked everyone who nominated students for the IUPUI Top 100 or wrote support letters for students who were nominated by others.  He then extended his thanks to all who nominated colleagues or submitted applications for the Trustees Teaching Awards, and to the Committee on Teaching and Advising for reviewing those nominations and applications, and selecting the recipients.

He congratulated the Department of Communication Studies, whose proposal for a PhD in Health Communication passed the final step in the approval process on February 14th, when the Indiana Commission on Higher Education voted unanimously in favor of it.  Dean Blomquist also congratulated to the School of Liberal Arts (SLA) Student Council who won the campus-wide "Deck Out Your Space" competition during IUPUI Homecoming week.

He ended his remarks by inviting everyone to participate in the annual faculty and staff campaign by designating gifts (one-time or through payroll deduction) to the department, program, or school causes the donor wants to support.  He invited everyone to attend the kick-off celebration on March 21st at 11:00 in CA 508.

5. Old business
   a. Update on General Education requirements:  Marianne Wokeck, SLA Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, reported.

   Handouts: "The IUPUI Model of Integrative" (printed out in black ink to save copying costs); "Bachelor of Arts Degree / for students admitted fall semester 2013 or after"; "Revision of general education requirements for the liberal arts BA to fit the mandated 120-credit hour maximum for BA in Indiana."  Have gone through all of the campus levels.  Turnaround has to be very fast.  Thanks to all who submitted syllabi, and to Candy Smith, who put everything in the system (a big job).
b. Proposed revision of Liberal Arts B.A. degree requirements: Beth Goering, chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards committee, reported.

Time constraints because of deadline to have copy to the printer, so committee will do an electronic vote sometime during the month of March because this cannot wait until the next FA meeting. Document represents Liberal Arts faculty members’ collective efforts (e.g., Town Hall meetings). Explains what is meant by course numbering, e.g., what a 200-level course Tries to give value to Liberal Arts as a part of education. Getting rid of Area III; replacing it with other requirements; encouraging students to do a minor, etc. Changes in the languages requirement; matches other universities; in keeping with IUPUI's efforts toward an internationalized curriculum.

Discussion followed.

Question: Is there a requirement to take any courses in non-American history? Answer: No. Departments submitted six courses to the core. Comment: If our goal is to have a truly liberal arts curriculum, this is a serious omission.

Integrator requirement is waived if a transfer student has a given number of credits.

We don't know yet how many transfer students there will be, so we can use Integrator requirement as a fallback.

First Year Experience, Mid-Degree Experience, Final Year Experience will be required. Question: Are all nine credits now built into degree? Yes; the rationale for this also is in handout.

Question: Is it possible to explain who will be teaching these courses, the content, etc.? Answer (Wokeck): If these degree requirements get approved, there is a committee looking at issues like content, staffing, etc. Will be decided before the proposal goes through the remainder of the vetting process. Rationale for structuring curriculum this way: Has positive effect on retention and graduation. No decisions made yet because we want to have as broad a discussion as possible.

Question: Does the School of Liberal Arts have the resources for these courses? Answer (Blomquist): One of discussion points has been that a one-credit 100-level course exists; changing it to a 300-level course gives more time to examine liberal arts (e.g., where it came from, what it is). The 400-level course will help graduates leave the university with a clearer idea of what their degree is. Staffing: Will ask for participation; these people might then become the instructors of interested; is an iterative process.

Question: Does SLA need to have this in place by Fall 2014? Answer (Wokeck): No; courses will come into place one at a time. Gibau: Newly-declared majors would come under this curriculum; there might be a small group of students who would fall between the two curricula (previous curriculum and this one).

Concerns were raised about losing credit for these courses if an IUPUI student transfers to another institution. Wokeck: A curriculum is designed for the present institution's students, not for students to transfer.
Question: How is the Final Year Experience course different than our current capstone requirement? Wokeck: Not every SLA major has a capstone. The new requirement has a career component to it. Might not matter whether a student took U.S. or world history; what will matter more is whether a graduate can write and talk about what it means to have a major in the liberal arts. We are living in a world that does not value liberal arts.

Comment: We need to shy away from question, "How can we market an SLA degree?"

Question: Why not change "Valuing Liberal Arts" to "Applying Liberal Arts"? Wokeck: Not wedded to the title; this is a working title.

Blomquist: The question is, "as compared to what?" For example, there no fewer hours of social sciences, humanities, math, languages, etc. These nine credits come what otherwise would have been electives. It comes down to whether a student on his/her own is better off choosing own electives or doing this? That is, are the S300, S400 courses etc. better than the present situation?

Question: Is the need for these courses tantamount to admitting the failure of the PULs? Thought that the point of PULs was to do this. Wokeck: More an issue of what we have not done with the PULs. Goering: This is an opportunity to apply PULs specifically to the School of Liberal Arts.

Comment: These additional courses might be better thought of as "value added." Every student is asking, "What do I do with my major?"

Comments: The second year of foreign language requirement will deter some students; it will especially discourage students from the School of Science (SOS), School of Medicine, etc. from getting a double major with an SLA major. Loss of the electives will make it very difficult to work in all of the requirements. Liberal Arts majors would be even less geared toward a specialty. Goering: The number of credit hours per course would change; the total would be fourteen credits, i.e., would not double ten credits.

Wokeck: Having just one year of proficiency came from the time when IUPUI was created, when it was thought that IUPUI students were not capable of 2 years of language. IUB and Purdue-West Lafayette require two years of language for a major in liberal arts; IUPUI's current requirement is more similar to community colleges.

Many students come to IUPUI with enough language background that they go directly into second-year language; often they are not SLA majors.

Comment (S. Pegg, Political Science and former director of International Studies [IS]): At present, IS and World Languages and Cultures are the only two SLA majors requiring more than one year of language. IS currently has some eighty majors, so we do have a data point that students do willingly take two years of language.

Question: Is there a disincentive to do a certificate and/or second major? Wokeck: No; intention is to make the curriculum more flexible. There is a difference between a major and a minor. Should enable students to get more than just a minor in another field.
Question: Is this being voted on today? Goering reiterated the intent is to have an electronic vote, but there might need to be another round of revisions before that vote.

Question: Are these nine hours required, or can a student choose to take nine other Liberal Arts courses? Answer: These nine hours are required.

Question: Are these intentionally interdisciplinary? Wokeck: Yes. Follow-up comment: The Integrator requirement already covers what the proposed Mid-Degree Experience appears to do. Argued that getting to commit to Integrators is better. Wokeck: The Integrator requirement did not communicate to the students what it is supposed to be.

Not knowing who will teach the courses changes what the courses will be. Difficult to vote when this is the first presentation to the FA.

The deadline means something will have to be done soon; will there be opportunities to modify this degree program later? Wokeck: There is a Undergraduate Curriculum Committee that can do this.

c. SLA Faculty Assembly Bylaws: President Ardemagni asked for motion amend agenda to move this until after New Business. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. New business

a. Library Committee: Patricia Wittberg, committee chair, reported.

The move toward consolidation of professional journals to just a few publishers will have a huge effect on libraries; Wittberg used the metaphor of a tsunami. The effects of this will hit SOS before they hit SLA.

IUPUI Libraries currently spend $500,000 on journals; subscription rates are rising at 5% each year. This means that UL will need to drop staff members each year to keep up with the increases.

Open-access journals are one response to this. University Library (UL) has proposed a survey of faculty members' knowledge of open-access journals; please answer this survey when it arrives.

SLA Library Committee needs faculty input to what UL administrators are thinking of doing (email Wittberg directly).

UL administrators are considering cancelling subscriptions to low-use journals (library has data about this); databases (e.g., Ebsco; JStor) would continue to have these journals in their respective databases; faculty members could still get articles through Interlibrary Loan. Springer is suing to try to stop this practice ("predatory publishers").

University Library (UL) is buying more books in electronic format than in paper format; statistics show that large percentage of paper books are never checked out. If a book is in demand, UL would order it in paper format from a just-in-time printer.
b. Nominating Committee: Kim Brian Lovejoy, committee chair, presented the slate for the upcoming election of officers for August 2013 - April 2015 (i.e., AY 2013-2014 and AY 2014-2015). President Ardemagni asked for nominations from floor. There were none, so the slate was accepted with gratitude to the Nominating Committee for their work.

c. FA Secretary Whitchurch reminded everyone of deadlines for the Agenda Council: These deadlines are the Friday before each Agenda Council meeting; not just before Faculty Assembly meetings. Deadlines and dates of Agenda Council meetings are on the first page of the Faculty Assembly section of the SLA website.

d. President Ardemagni called for any new business from the floor. There was none.

7. SLA Faculty Assembly Bylaws (from 5.c. above)

a. Proposed changes highlighted by President Ardemagni

• Preamble
• Word "shall" changed to "will"
• "Article" had been changed to "Section"; confusing because "Sections" had its own sections
• Changed "Section" back to "Article."
• Article 2, section 2a
• Format changes in some places
• Article 3: The change is to make it match with the rest of the document.
• The number of people from any given department was changed.
• Duties of FA President; relocated it from the bottom of the document, but not many changes in content or wording
• Nothing in bylaws re. what to do if President cannot attend; [get from draft] can designate
• Terms of office of Agenda Council (AC) members; the need to be available immediately after transition meeting, which takes place at the end of Spring semester. Q from floor: Which AC (outgoing or new) sets the meeting dates and deadlines for the subsequent academic year? Answer: the new AC. Agreed: term of new AC shall begin on May 1.
• Election: several changes, mostly to update practices and to create a procedure for officers' absences
• Promotion and Tenure Committee: added or revised items to align with the campus-level Promotion and Tenure Committee
• Research and Advisory Committee: reviews sabbatical applications
• Technology Committee: duties updated to match current technology and practices
• Other updates as needed to match current technology and/or current practice
• Updated other aspects as needed

b. Suggestions from the floor

• SLA now has a faculty member with Clinical rank; that should be incorporated.
• Item C.1. under Faculty Affairs: Strike "complaints about faculty" because there are other university channels for this, so this duty is no longer relevant for the SLA Faculty Affairs Committee.
c. President Ardemagni reminded everyone that this is the first reading of the updated FA Bylaws. After the present FA meeting, additional changes will be made and the formatting will be rechecked. The document will be circulated again; she will notify SLA faculty members.

7. Open discussion on the topic of faculty service was tabled until a future Faculty Assembly meeting.

8. President Ardemagni asked for, and received, a motion to adjourn.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted April 10, 2013.

Gail Gráinne Whitchurch
Associate Professor of Communication Studies
Secretary of the SLA Faculty Assembly, 2009-2011 & 2011-2013