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THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

McKenna Hall Auditorium

ATTENDANCE

Deans: *Dean:* Sarah Mustillo; *Associate Deans:* James Brockmole, Peter Holland, Essaka Joshua, Margaret Meserve; *Assistant Deans:* Maureen Dawson, Collin Meissner, Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel

Chairpersons and Directors: Thomas Burman, Theodore Cachey, David Campbell, William Carbonaro, Lee Anna Clark, Jon Coleman, James Collins, Mark Doerries, Erika Doss, William Evans, Agustin Fuentes, David Gasperetti, Richard Gray, Luca Grillo, Peter Jeffery, Mary Celeste Kearney, Jesse Lander, Timothy Matovina, Diarmuid Ó Giolláin, Dianne Pinderhughes, Alison Rice, Jeff Speaks, Thomas Stapleford, Meghan Sullivan, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: Christopher Abram, Gail Bederman, John Betz, Tobia Boes, Tatiana Botero, Kathleen Boyle, Alex Brodersen, Noreen Deane-Moran, Denise Della Rossa, Darren Dochuk, Kiera Duffy, Li Guo, Ben Heller, David Hernandez, Encarnacion Juarez, Michael Kackman, Michelle Karnes, Stephen Lancaster, James Lundberg, Congcong Ma, Elena Mangione-Lora, Tara MacLeod, William Mattison, Samuel Newlands, Mary O'Callaghan, Matthew Payne, Andrew Radde-Gallwitz, Mark Sanders, Susan Sheridan, Jeff Spoonhower, Lijuan (Peggy) Wang, Todd Walatka, Shauna Williams, Weibing Ye

Undergraduate Students: Christopher Enabnit; John Henry Hobgood

Graduate Student: Shinjini Chattopadhyay; Jorge Puma-Crespo

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Matthew Capdevielle (University Writing Center), Maria Di Pasquale (Academic Advancement), William Donaruma (Center for Creative Computing), John Duffy (University Writing Program), Kate Garry (Office of the Dean, Communications), Robert Goulding (John J. Reilly Center), Michelle LaCourt (Dean's Office), Erin Lemrow (Undergraduate Studies Advising), Geraldine Meehan (Global Gateways at NDI), Brian O'Conchubhair (Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures), Kathleen Opel (Office

of International Studies), Melvin Tardy (Undergraduate Studies Advising), Paul Weithman, (Glynn Family Honors Program), Matthew Zyniewicz (Office of the Dean)

Guests: Joseph Becherer (Director, Snite Museum of Art), Patrick Flynn (Professor and Chair, Computer Science and Engineering)

Excused: Maria Di Pasquale, Ben Heller, Peter Holland, Diarmuid Ó Giolláin, Joshua Lund, Tim Matovina, Lyn Spillman, Tom Stapleford, Juan Vitulli, Matthew Wilkens, Weibing Ye

Dean Sarah Mustillo convened the meeting at 3:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

S. Mustillo asked for any amendments to the April 23, 2019 College Council minutes. The Council approved the minutes without corrections.

COLLEGE BUSINESS

Snite Museum of Art

Snite Museum of Art Director, Joseph Becherer, welcomed the group to the Snite, as this was the first meeting in the new venue while McKenna Hall was leveled and rebuilt. He made comments about the museum.

BA in Computer Science proposal

S. Mustillo opened the discussion by noting that the idea for a BA in Computer Science has been bouncing around the University for about 10 years. Patrick Flynn began by talking about the discipline of computer science. In brief, it has deep roots in mathematics and electrical engineering. The proposed BA in Computer Science will provide an opportunity for students to study a field in depth and in combination with another field. The major requirements for the computer science degree will be: (1) completion of University Core Curriculum requirements; (2) completion of College of Arts and Letters requirements; (3) completion of major-specific mathematics coursework, including MATH 10550 and MATH 10560 and six or more credits; (4) completion of 35 credits of Computer Science coursework; (5) completion of 15 or more credit hours in a cognate area of study; (6) and senior thesis would be strongly recommended. Advising of students in the major would be worked out.

Denise Della Rossa (Department of German and Russian) asked about the major requirements. Would the College need to create new courses for computer science technical writing and speaking? Should the thesis be mandatory? Will the students have to pursue foreign language proficiency? If so, how do all the requirements fit into a four-year degree? P. Flynn responded that the degree will have many technical writing requirements. S. Mustillo noted that the College will encourage talented students to begin their thesis research in their second year. Finally, the College's foreign language requirement will be the same for the students in this major.

One council member asked if it will be difficult to manage two different independent majors in the same discipline. The advising aspects might be a challenge. The council member was also curious about how the cognate area works without a minor. S. Mustillo confirmed that the assistant deans mapped out all of the requirements for the degree program and found that some minors would not be compatible with the degree but most would work. P. Flynn also suggested that if a cognate does not offer a minor, then a student could pursue a coherent set of courses.

Tobias Boes (Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures) noticed that there are unusually deep and numerous course requirements for the major. He wondered if there are too many required courses. Would they not be able to take another minor? M. Mustillo responded that students would not be able to take another major or minor. P. Flynn observed that the requirements will still be much less constrained than in engineering programs. M. Mustillo believed that engineers will want to do this degree/major. P. Flynn thought the opposite.

Gail Bederman (Department of History) noted that the proposal shows that a selected cognate area and its courses must be approved by the program director. How will they figure it out? And, where is the money coming from? S. Mustillo responded that the physical space was a gift from CDT minor, and that is where this will go. G. Bederman asked if there will be accompanying hires. S. Mustillo confirmed that the College will need to use the resources that the College already has.

Ted Cachey (Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) was excited to see the proposal. He applauded the School of Engineering school for working with the College of Arts and Letters. Language minors could complement what is going on in engineering; students could study abroad, for example, to get language and culture training. Languages could provide venues for the study of languages. P. Flynn agreed; there are faculty in various study abroad locations who could offer courses for computer science majors. The programs would also rearrange courses so that cognates are offered.

The proposal was approved on September 5, 2019 by the College of Arts and Letters Undergraduate Committee. The Department of Engineering did not have to vote on it but discussed it.

S. Mustillo called for a vote to approve the proposal for a new BA in Computer Science. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval.

Leave policy

Associate Dean Margaret Meserve provided a brief introduction of the revised policy. There appears to have been much confusion about the College's leave policy. M. Meserve researched many leave policies at other institutions and found that the College's policy was the most complicated. M. Meserve then attempted to re-write the policy, closing some loopholes.

Basically, the College's leave policy is more generous than most. After every 5 years, eligible faculty may receive one semester of research leave and if the faculty receive external funding for the research at certain amounts, then a faculty member may receive a second semester of research leave. If a faculty member receives what is considered a prestigious fellowship, then the College could top up the faculty member's salary. The fellowship must be prestigious in order for salary to be topped up. Further, if a faculty member has taught for 4 consecutive semesters, and receives external funding, the faculty member can apply for a research leave. Yet, when the faculty member returns from the leave, the faculty member's semester clock will reset.

Peter Smith (Department of Music) cited the text in the second paragraph of the policy, "[...] the leave must be taken during the semester in which the fewest courses are taught." P. Smith requested that the phrase "should usually" to replace "must be" to accommodate department curricular teaching needs.

Michelle Karnes (Department of English) noted that in *section (a)* the proposal mentions premium fellowships. She asked whether or not there will be opportunities to consider what is considered a premium external fellowship. M. Meserve noted that the Dean's Office will consider arguments for which fellowships should be considered as premium.

T. Boes wondered how the Dean's Office will determine the list of premium fellowships. How will it make the decisions? S. Mustillo stated that the Office invited chairpersons to make arguments for additions to the list. M. Meserve observed that the discussion began with the list from ISLA as they track fellowships and noted the fellowships that our peers pursue.

Unapproved team teaching

Essaka Joshua explained how team teaching requests are approved. The process takes place once a semester. E. Joshua comes to the process when making considerations of course low enrollments. Typically about 15 students are needed for a course that is team taught. E. Joshua underscored that the threshold is 15 and that the intention for team-taught courses is for collaborations across departments. Faculty should rarely--if at all--team teach with someone from the same department.

M. Meserve noted that there has been a process in place since the 2013 applications, and faculty could apply and get full teaching credit for team-teaching courses. Now the process does not seem to be working. Deans and chairpersons sometimes do not know what teaching arrangements have been made. The Dean's Office would provide permissions to teach a team-taught course, and then faculty would negotiate the teaching assignments with the department. Some faculty thought they were obligated to teach the approved team-taught course(s) for 3 years. Further, some faculty who have taught a team-taught course forever thought that they need not apply for approval. The College has not come up with a decision about what to do about this. Should the College develop a new process? Should faculty have to apply every time a course will be offered but link with the department's course planning

process? Teams will have to communicate better with the department so that the department's teaching needs are met. S. Mustillo stated that such a process is not to be a burden or about the Dean's Office trying to micromanage departments. Rather, there seems to be a need for a better institutional planning process for planning courses.

ADJOURNMENT

S. Mustillo adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew C. Zyniewicz
Dean's Executive Administrator