

# **Arts and Humanities Collegiate Council Meeting**

25 February 2011

In attendance: James Harris, Dean (ARHU); Charley Rutherford (ARHU); Sam Kerstein (PHIL, CC President); Anthony Colantuono (ARTH); Kristy Maddux (COMM); Chip Richardson (ARTT); Bernard Cooperman (JWST); Alexander Williams (LING); David Olson (Undergraduate Representative); Misha Kachman (TDPS); Eva Stehle (CLAS)

## **1) Dean's Remarks:**

-The budget for next year is looking reasonable. It's probably going to be a cut of just 1% - you never know until the end of the legislative session, early April.

-UM usually gets cut at 40% of the total System cut.

-What we don't know is about re-allocation. With the change in Provost, and a new President, we just don't have any basis on which to guess.

-Re-allocation has benefited some colleges; others had problems.... There are some good things that can come out of re-allocation, and we in ARHU did remarkably well. You get things like the cluster searches, etc. But just because it was beneficial one year there's no guarantee that such benefits will recur in another year.

-Furloughs probably not continuing next year. No promises. President Loh has come out strongly against them, and they're not in the Governor's budget as it went to the Legislature.

## **2) Procedure for Staff and Student Representation on the CC**

-The current procedure for undergraduate representatives is nomination by department or school.

-One might also select the UG representative from Dean's Advisory Council. The UG reps on the Advisory Council serve as peer ambassadors for the College. There's also a Graduate Advisory Council.

-Sam: Yes, per our POO, there should also be a graduate representative as well.

-Charley, Jim: Using the Dean's Advisory Councils is a good idea; one finds people who have shown commitment.

-Berny: You shouldn't have the Dean's office actually choosing the people, that seems problematic.

-Discussion, concluding that: There should be an *election* within the Dean's advisory councils for undergraduate and graduate representatives.

-Tony: For staff representation, we could ask the committee that considers awards for staff.

-Jim, Charley: Yes, that's a good procedure.

**3) Jeff's suggestion [see CC Meeting 28 January] that CC should create opportunities for junior faculty to meet with new college and university administrators.**

-Jim: We could send out a message offering those interested the opportunity to make contact with ARHU .

-Charley: Here's where we could start: Assoc. Provost Juan Uriagareka. The Provost's Office could be very useful in keeping junior faculty abreast of changes in policy, etc. I'll bring that up with him, we speak practically daily.

-Jim: This discussion also involved a broad concern about the wide-ranging changes in administration and administrative culture.

Tony: I think it's valid, these administrative changes are massive, they've been ongoing and disconcerting, with far-reaching implications for faculty at all levels.

Berny: There's a sense of alienation that comes with these changes, where the more senior faculty begin to just say well, it'll change, so just ignore it. The junior faculty instead tend to worry almost too much about it. Neither response is really healthy.

Jim: Maybe the best response is to do exactly what you're proposing right now—do things to increase the opportunity for communication with key administrators.

**4) Council Participation in the ARHU Dean Search**

-Sam: I sent the letter to Dean Gold on 1 February. No response so I re-sent it on 22 February. His response implied that the CC would have no greater or lesser role than that open to any individual in the college. Basically we can attend presentations and we can ask questions, but that's it.

-Berny: Exactly, it's basically saying "No."

-Sam: Our [CC] Personally I'm not motivated to invest more time trying to get involved in the process; I'm not convinced it'll lead anywhere.

-Jim: In the end, despite the obvious role of the Search Committee, the Provost's office actually controls this search. But it's not worth pursuing it with them, they won't do anything.

-Berny: We should nonetheless pursue it, on principle. Look at the example of the Libraries. You do it not because you'll win, but because it'll remind people of what we are entitled to as a representative body of ARHU faculty.

-Sam: Our POO does not, strictly speaking, imply that we must have a role; it does encourage the thought that we should have a role and that we make ourselves available in an advisory role.

-Chip: [Agrees we should not pursue it further.]

-Eva: Agreed, but not happy about it.

-Charley: We are talking about the CC as a form of *institutional* input. But as individuals, we are also entitled to and indeed should be very interested in the process.

-Jim: Yes, you have more options than just attending the candidates' presentations or reviewing their CVs. You don't have to be passive. You can call these peoples' colleagues at the current institutions, you can ask questions, you have the option of involving yourself as an individual.

-Jim: There'll be a survey monkey type of set-up, and you'll be able to comment there. We're certainly not talking about digging up dirt on anyone, but maybe finding positive reasons to support a particular candidate.

-Alexander: We knew from the first that the CC would never have a major role. But if we feel at the end that they've chosen someone completely inappropriate, we can still comment, protest, if necessary.

-Jim: Once the result becomes public it's out of the committee's hands, it goes to the Provost's office. You could direct your comments there.

-Bernie: Why not write to the Provost now? Why not try?

-Eva: Yes, if the prospective Dean had to meet with the CC prior to appointment, that person would have a better connection with the faculties to be governed. We could familiarize that person with the issues from our point of view.

-Sam: Bernie and Eva, would you like to draft a letter to this effect?

-[Agreed.]

## **5) Dean's Forum**

-Sam: Date of the Event: Wednesday 27 April, Ulrich Hall (Tawes), 1:30-3PM.

-Jim: I'm not going to speak for an hour and a half. I would be happiest making a reasonably brief and informal talk, addressing some of the issues I set forth in my white paper... but in a way that would not commit or pressure the new Dean in any way.

-Kristy: In addition to this discussion, would there also be a celebratory, epideictic dimension to the event? Reminding people of what good things are going on, what you've accomplished?

-Jim: As long as I can avoid bragging. That should not be the purpose of the event.

-Chip: You actually were able to make many of these positive points [about ARHU's progress in the past 15 years] quite gracefully in the white paper.

-Jim: I do think the College has made tremendous progress. [But gives examples of the other types of issues that might be brought forward]: I might want to make the point that many of the things about the Humanities that are assumed true on the basis of national trends, etc., don't really hold true here. The idea of hybrid courses, blended learning... not unique to the STEM disciplines, yet we get little credit for it. The question is: What will be able to create the highest quality courses. Also: STEM students don't achieve nearly as much as we do in Humanities, they are ranked way down nationally compared to us. And we have no problem with a lack of women in our disciplines, whereas they do. There's a huge difference between the billions that the NIH and NSF get versus what the few millions that the NEH/NEA get tells the whole story. It's way out of proportion.

-Sam: Should we have any talk of your retirement as Dean, any testimonials...

-Chip: ... a roast?

-Kristy: But there could and probably will be comments from the floor congratulating and thanking you for your service, etc.

-Sam: What exactly are my responsibilities [as CC President] with respect to advertising, etc., for this?

-Jim: See Kathy Cavanaugh, actually maybe Jon Boone. Don't spend any big money on this. Some basic advertising; minimum refreshments. In Ulrich you can't take refreshments into the hall, which has new seats; but there'll be space in the lobby.

-Chip: I envision we'd have the refreshments afterward, maybe the last 20 minutes of the time slot.

## 6) Sam: Draft of the Letter for Provost Favardin

-changes suggested by CC members based on draft circulated

-members agree that Sam can revise and send out the letter.

## **7. New or Future Business**

-Berny [Introducing an idea for a new CC event]: In events that involve multiple Colleges, there's always a sense of a real, perceived difference: we do this and they do that; we understand this and they don't etc. Often there's a put-down implicit with it. There's a kind of ignorance or distance factor. People should read the book *Academically Adrift* which addresses this point, that is, about how the organization of universities tends to lead to certain kinds of dysfunctional or ineffective communication among disciplines. I propose that the CC would sponsor or organize some kind of forum to consider what would foster excellence in learning; this could be for ARHU or for the whole campus.

-Jim: There's enough of this sort of distance just within the college alone. Great idea.

-Chip: I'm on the Humanities faculty board for Gen Ed, it's interesting how some of the Humanities people felt like underdogs to the performing arts. Artists already feel like underdogs. The communication among different constituencies would be helpful.

-Jim: Agreed. People often are working on the same things in different ARHU disciplines and yet they don't even know one another.

-Sam: So the proposal is that we put on the next or future agenda a discussion the idea of such a forum?

-Berny: Yes. The event might focus on what makes for excellence, success, in teaching. The President is now placing emphasis on this—how do we educate more people? We can help by fostering the development of the necessary language.

-Jim: On another note: I think you should be trying to get on the calendar to meet with the new Dean as soon as possible. This would be good.

-[General agreement the CC should pursue this.]

-Sam: Next CC meetings: 1 April and 6 May. No meeting on 29 March.

Meeting ends 2:25PM.