

Minutes, Collegiate Council Meeting: October 30, 2009

Attending: Linda Aldoory (Chair), Charley Rutherford, Leigh Smiley, Rita Phelps (Staff Representative), Madeline Zilfi, Theresa Coletti, Chip Richardson, Caroline Eades, Susan Allen (Graduate Student Representative), Alexander Williams, Eva Stehle (Vice-Chair), Katie King, Sam Kerstein, Karen Bradley (Secretary), Dean James Harris

Call to Order: 1:05 by Linda Aldoory

- I. Introductions were conducted
- II. Welcome to new Council members:  
Rita Phelps (Department of Theatre), Staff Representative  
Susan Allen (Department of Communication), Graduate Student Representative
- III. Approval of last meeting's minutes: with alterations: Madeline moved to accepted, Chip seconded, passed
- IV. Old business  
Chip R. and Katie K. updated ARHU Plan of Organization: minor changes only  
Charley said we are not entirely clear about who initiates redoing/updating Plans of Organization. He is looking into it.  
Discussion of term "Affirmative Action" and the currency of the use. Charley pointed out in searches, we use the term diversity, not Affirmative Action. Discussion of definition and explicit nature of the terms Diversity and Affirmative Action. Charley suggested we revisit the Plan of Organization later this year vis-à-vis changes that are about to take place. Eva moved to table No. 3, Chip seconded. Passed unanimously.  
Discussion of No. 4 and the use of the word "optimally". Agreement not to codify the waffling.  
Motion to delete: No. 4: Theresa moved, Madeline seconded, passed unanimously  
Vote on Nos. 1 and 2: passed unanimously
- V. Dean's Remarks:  
Budget: We've had a cut to the College over 2.6 million dollars, both base (State money—permanent) and soft budgets. Allowed system and university to pay back soft money on a one-time basis, from income or vacant lines. More in soft money than in base (40% base and 60% soft). Could not be across the board, and it's complex. As of July 1, the State will ask for the same amount back again, and the soft money will be hard—base money. More cuts will come this year. Revenue collections for the state are down significantly. Explanations ensued. It looks like another million dollars in hard money will be required to give back. State of Maryland looking at 2 billion dollar gap. We will know more about that in January. We have an annual budget of about 48 million dollars. In fact, we got a bit of a break on the cuts. EX: the graduate programs have been vulnerable because they are one place cuts can happen legally, especially the TA pools.

In fact, most units have added soft money to their TA pools. And yet, many graduate students are not funded, or are underfunded.

Discussion of perception of cuts for units without outside funding. Issue of declining job opportunities for graduates and best practices across the country. We are at 43% completion rates in ten years, as compared with 60% at Berkeley and Michigan. Smaller better graduate programs will result.

VI. New business:

Suggestion brought up to have a college-level forum this semester with the Dean to discuss the budget and restructuring plans. Dean Harris concerned that it might be too early since no decisions have been finalized. Timing is important. Forum usually happens in March/April, and more details, decisions, etc., will be made by January, 2010. Discussion ensued about best timing for Faculty Forum. Agreed by members to host the forum in the Spring, but as early as possible in the semester rather than wait until April.

Charley: changed Plans of Organization: newly approved Plan for SLLC. This plan was approved by the faculty after 18 months of work. Charley will distribute to us electronically. A precis of the process of change will come to us. Director of SLLC or her designee will attend next month's meeting and will highlight the salient parts.

Adjourned: Moved: Katie, Chip seconded 2:50 pm

Next meeting: Friday, November 20, 2009, 1 pm