

Collegiate Council Meeting  
September 7, 2013

In attendance: Jan Padios (AMST), Holly Brewer (HIST), Hasan Elahi (ARTT), June Hargrove (ARTH), Eric Adler (CLAS), Xiaoli Nan (COMM), Ellen Lau (LING), Rachel Singpurwalla PHIL), Ashwini Tambe (WMST), Laura Nichols (STAFF), Bonnie Thornton Dill (ex officio) and Charles Rutherford (ex officio).

Absent (Scott Wible (ENGL), Rachel Manekin (JWST), Alaa Elgibali (SLLC), Leslie Felbain (TDPS), and Chris Gekker (MUSC).

- 1) The order of the agenda was immediately suspended in order to accommodate a report presented by Laura Nichols and Julie Wright on the progress of attempts to formulate a Staff Council on the model of the Collegiate Council. There are approximately 275 staff persons in Arts and Humanities, nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of these are "Exempt" Staff with professional responsibilities, the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  are "Non-Exempt." Many of these staff members have considerable departmental identity but little or no identity with the College of Arts and Humanities forum has been working for a year now to put together what a Staff Council would look like. At the instigation of the Dean staff members from each of the fourteen academic units have formed the "Staff Council Working Group. The Staff Council would not replace the Union, but as envisioned it would permit a sharing or resources, the promotion of staff development opportunities, attempting to transcend somewhat outmoded departmental silos.

The goal of the Staff Council Working Group is to have a finished proposal for the formation of a Staff Council prepared for the next revision of the College's Plan of Organization. In the meantime, Laura Nichols has taken over the role of Staff Representative to the Collegiate Council until the Staff Council formal; y elects a representative.

- 2) Dean's Remarks: The Dean began her remarks challenging belief that academics enjoy a summer free of responsibility and care. She cites all that has been going on in the College in recent weeks:
  - Raises: The availability of COLA and Merit increment money this year gave rise to some serious decisions regarding salary compression and equity issues. The funds available are "a drop in the bucket" but at least we have the ability to start addressing some serious problems. A number of units did begin to address the equity issues that have grown up by setting aside a portion of the merit money to do so. COLA and Merit adjustments will be deferred to January 1, 2014 and April 1, 2014 respectively.
  - Potential Partnership with the Corcoran. The University has entered into an agreement to examine the viability of an arrangement with the Corcoran and this summer a Task Force has investigated the question. President Low identifies this as a way to raise the profile of the Arts. "An exciting possibility offering lots of opportunities and giving the University a presence in the District of Columbia. There are also, however, a number of fiscal challenges; the Corcoran is about out of money;

the Corcoran is made up of a building a school and a collection of art. We discussed what the payoff for the University might be. The Dean suggested that the payoff for the University would need to be a longer term payoff. We discussed economies of scale that would definitely benefit the Corcoran. Also at issue is the argument that in entering the Big Ten we are affiliating with a group of institutions that all seem to have similar relationships with significant Art museums. The Dean calls it “a strategic opportunity that came to us. We need to assess what to make of it. The Corcoran will keep its name (both Corcoran College and the Corcoran Gallery. The school at the Corcoran has 8-10 faculty members and a number of adjuncts; there is no tenure system. They offer the B.F.A. and some M.A degrees; we offer the B.A. and the M.F.A.

- Dean Thornton Dill spoke of the University’s affiliation with the Big Ten, especially as it is reflected in our participation (starting immediately) in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) that is the academic arm of the Big Ten and is run by the Provosts. Our participation offers great opportunity for disciplinary cooperation and for access to libraries and databases.
- We are about to launch (in October) a big cooperative program in Language Science
- MPower initiative in Law and Society (the name of the Minor) that will also have a College Park Scholars Living-Learning Program called Law and Social Justice. This program will be mounted in collaboration with BSOS, though at one point is seemed as though BSOS and its Director Robert Koulisch had taken over the program entirely. Dean Thornton Dill threatened “to pick up our marbles and go home;” that is we informed BSOS that no courses would be offered by ARHU, no seats made available for the program, without a more equitable agreement of the location and description of the program.
- The Dean is preparing to present the Diversity Task Force Report to the College along with the implementation plan. This will be presented to the College at the Convocation on September 17<sup>th</sup>. ARHU will be implementing Diversity differently from most of the rest of the campus.
- The Appearance of *The Heart of The Matter* from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a video and paper presentation stating the case for the Humanities. This semester we will bring to campus as part of the ARHU Lecture Series both John Lithgow (he was one of the main voices in “The Heart of the Matter”) and Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University Professor of Law and Pulitzer-Prize winning Historian (*Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings: An American Controversy*) a member of the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences that produced *The Heart of the Matter*.

- 3) Brian Crawford presented a video featuring Jason Farman (AMST) discussing his research. This is the final video in the series – born in the Collegiate Council in the spring of 2011 – showing ARHU faculty talking about their research.
- 4) Dean Thornton Dill asked that we be thinking who we might want to invite to the Spring Forum in Arts and Humanities. Last year we had a conversation with Provost Mary Ann Rankin. The previous year we had a conversation with President Wallace Loh.
- 5) We finally turned to the business of electing officers for this year's Collegiate Council. Holly Brewer was again elected to serve as Chair of the Council. Hasan Elahi was elected to serve as Vice Chair. And Jan Padios volunteered and was elected to serve as Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Friday, October 4, 2013.

Minutes submitted by C.S. Rutherford