

Faculty Council
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2008

Present: Julio de Paula, Dean of the College; Jane Hunter, Associate Dean; Cliff Bekar, Associate Professor of Economics; Ken Clifton, Associate Professor of Biology; Dinah Dodds, Professor of German; Deborah Heath, Associate Professor of Anthropology; and Terri Banasek, Executive Assistant and recorder. **Guest:** Rebecca Copenhaver, Associate Professor of Philosophy and chair of the Committee on the Curriculum.

Excused: Mervyn Brockett, Assistant to the President

Agenda Items

1. Dr. Copenhaver attended the meeting to discuss the review of the classical studies program. The big picture view is that the existing curriculum is thriving. Student demand is high, and the curriculum is well integrated. However, it is, to a certain degree, “shoe stringed.” The number of faculty who are able to teach in the classical studies program is limited, both at Lewis & Clark and nationally. If some courses were to be taken out of the curriculum, the College could not mount the minor. If courses were to be added, it would be good – there is a good foundation for growth. Dr. Copenhaver is unsure if there are any students taking advantage of courses at Reed or elsewhere. There are currently 10 declared minors, and there are two self-designed majors with another anticipated.

Dr. Heath asked what the potential impact is on on-campus course offerings of running the program in Greece on a more regular basis. Are there concerns about taking leaders off campus? Dr. Copenhaver responded that the plan is to continue the off-campus program, with Nick Smith leading it next. It is an important part of the minor. She would be very surprised if it were Dr. Smith or Dr. Kugler who led it every time.

Dr. Bekar pointed out that when the curriculum committee originally approved the minor, there was a set of things to be looked at when the program was reviewed. Does this review reflect those concerns? Dr. Copenhaver said the committee did not go back to the minutes. As far as she recalled, there were three issues: 1) A concern about being able to sustain a minor with so few faculty members; 2) would the faculty who were supporting it be able to support it administratively? and 3) an overarching concern about whether classics was a direction curricularly in which the College wanted to go.

Dr. Bekar noted that another issue was for students who would go through the minor with a large percentage of the courses being taught by adjuncts or visitors. One of the red flags in the sunset clause was that if it turned out that the first wave of students were taught overwhelmingly by adjuncts, that would be a concern.

Dr. Copenhaver responded that from the point of view of the curriculum committee, these three years have shown that there is serious interest on the part of students. Liberal arts institutions have a unique opportunity to offer classical students, and it reflects the mission of the liberal arts. It is a question of whether the faculty as a whole holds that value so that

students go through the minor with tenure-track faculty. It is consistent with liberal arts values and an excellent expression of them. Because of the strength of languages and methodology, Lewis & Clark has a unique opportunity to teach classical studies. Dean de Paula pointed out that if we are going to have program in place, we need to have the strongest faculty in place to teach the program. Dr. Bekar added that the College needs to establish a strategy for creating a minor.

Dr. Copenhaver reported that the dance minor will be reviewed next. The committee is also looking at education courses – there is no oversight in the CAS of the program.

2. Faculty Council discussed the two proposal for Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellows. Faculty Council approved the Latin American studies proposal.
3. Faculty Council began its review of the Faculty-Student Summer Research Grant applications. Dean de Paula pointed out that because of the now well-publicized budget constraints, the goal of this discussion is to prioritize.

Dr. Clifton suggested having a celebratory poster session at the beginning of the fall semester as is done for the Rogers Summer Program.

4. A member of the Faculty Council will present a report at the April faculty meeting.
5. Faculty Council approved the position request from the mathematics department; this is a replacement position.
6. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, April 14, 8:30 a.m.