

Faculty Council
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2009

Present: Julio de Paula, Dean of the College; Jane Hunter, Associate Dean of the College; Cliff Bekar, associate professor of economics; Andrew Bernstein, associate professor of history; Rob Kugler, Paul S. Wright Professor of Christian Studies; Liz Safran, associate professor of geological sciences; and Terri Banasek, executive assistant and recorder.

Agenda Items:

1. The minutes of August 26, 2009, were approved. Approval of the minutes of September 10, 2009, was deferred.
2. Faculty Council discussed implementation of the Mellon programs (not unrestricted money).

Senior fellowship program (sabbatical enhancement for tenure, mid-career faculty members): In the course of looking at sabbatical applications, Faculty Council could pick out a particularly worthy application and make the award. It would mean the ability to go away for a full year at full pay with an additional research stipend. Faculty Council needs to let the faculty know that this is coming; it would serve as the body that recommends the recipient of the award to Dean de Paula. Dean de Paula will send an e-mail to the faculty. Dr. Bekar also suggesting adding a Mellon talk to the Senior Fellowship Program, requiring recipients to give a talk to the community upon their return about their research.

Curricular development: Faculty Council discussed at length the Faculty Development Seminar Series and the Collaborative Teaching aspects of the program.

3. Dean de Paula reported on discussions in Curriculum Committee about general education. The committee will go to the faculty meeting in October and lay out the process. Faculty Council is comfortable with this approach. Instead of just asking for an up or down vote on the proposal, the committee will treat it as on-going business. When the committee is ready to make a proposal, they will bring it to the faculty meeting for a vote, but it would like to do something with the MNS piece. Associate Dean Hunter noted that Curriculum Committee has to go back to the task force to advise that it not ask for a vote. Ultimately, the Curriculum Committee will vote on the MNS proposals and then bring them to the faculty floor. Dean de Paula is having a meeting on September 28 about the role of humanities in the curriculum. The group with which he is meeting will be made aware of what the Curriculum Committee has decided. Rishona Zimring will be at that meeting, and she currently serves on the Curriculum Committee.

4. Dean de Paula gave a brief update on the budget.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Next meeting: Monday, October 5, 3:30-5:00 p.m.