

**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Faculty Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**

March 20, 2013

**Attendees:** John Cochran, Eric Eisenberg, Richard Manning, Adriana Novoa Kelly Page Werder, Christine Probes, Philip Reeder, Bernd Reiter, Kristina Schmidt, Sandy Schneider, Mary Sweely, Dana Pittman

**Absent:** Catherine Beneteau, James Cavendish, Chuck Connor, Lorene Hall-Jennings, Julie Harmon, Robert Potter, Hari Srikanth

- I. Meeting called to order.
- II. Introduction of Dana Pittman to the Faculty Council, she will be helping take minutes for the meetings.
- III. January minutes approved with a couple of corrections. We did not have a quorum for February's meeting. Therefore, the notes that were taken are not considered official business. A couple of corrections were made to them.
- IV. Dean's remarks: Dean Eisenberg gave an update on several items. Hiring for 84 Faculty lines has been completed. Looking to change the culture at USF by letting students graduate without applying to graduate. Having a problem with summer session – we are out of cash. Looking at privatizing for summer. Transitioning from 4 to 3 credit courses. Summer pay will go down – working with union. Class instruction and material will have to change – restricting scope since less time in the course. Students may have to take more classes. Degree Production – looking at low graduating areas and see if changes need to be made. Looking at assessing programs on the basis of the number of degrees conferred, e.g., 5 PhD per year. Should we advertise these lower programs?

Exploring Earth and Environmental Unit – ESP, Geology/Geography as one unit. ESP and Geology both favor the merge. Two of the five in Geography are in favor on the merge. The other three are opposed – of the three opposed two will be on sabbatical and one will be on bright futures in the fall 2013. Not sure who will teach the classes. Need Faculty Council report at least two weeks before Faculty Senate Meetings which are April 2, 17, and 18. Dr. Eisenberg had Dr. Phil Reeder speak to us about the possible merge of ESP, Geology and Geography. Dr. Reeder stated that they are trying to work with the Geography students to make sure they are taken care of.

Dr. Eisenberg also updated the Faculty Council on what was going on with the School of Mass Communications. The College has had a hard time getting stable supervisor for the department and let the accreditation for the school lapse. James Andrews (School of Information Director) will also be the interim for the School of Mass Communications for now. Most faculty in Mass Communications look at the future as positive, only 3 -5 of the faculty are unhappy. Dr. Eisenberg wants them to own their curriculum. Staff – trying to work with Lakeland money to give staff increases.

- V. Report of sub-committee re: possible bylaws to the CAS Governance Document as it pertains to the functioning of the CAS Faculty Advisory Council – The CAS Faculty Council agreed that it will not propose any changes or additions to the current bylaws.
- VI. – A group of faculty from the Geography Department came to speak to the Faculty Council about the proposed School of Geology, Geography and Environment. The group included Jay Chakraborty – Chair, Pratyusha Basu – Assoc. Professor, Marcellus Bosman – Assoc. Professor and Bruce Mitchell – Alumnus (speaking for the geography students). They are not happy with the proposal to dismantle the Geography Department. They want to keep the Geography department on its own. They think they have met the benchmarks and are asking to keep what they have built as is. They feel that with the merger the geography program will be lost or will weaken and Geology and ESP will be strengthened by this merger. They feel it is unfair to do this. Bruce Mitchell read a letter that was put together by the grad students. (16 students and 5 Alumnus – total 21). They want more lines to help with their program. 3 lines, plus visiting. Dr. Manning will draft a memo on geography's requests and information and will get it out to the Faculty Council.
- VII. Spring Assembly – Spring Assembly will be on April 12, 2:30 – 4:30 in the ISA building 7<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - a. Guest Speaker - Let Eric be the speaker,
  - b. Standing Committee Reports – email to be sent to collect reports prior to meeting.
  - c. Council meeting? Will need to send out and get replies from the Faculty Council to have a meeting before the Spring Assembly.
- VIII. Schedule meeting to fill standing committees – moved to April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- IX. Old business – no old business
- X. New business – no new business
- XI. Meeting Adjourned