

Minutes of the School of Liberal Arts Faculty Assembly

Friday, November 22, 2002

Present: Andersen, Ardemagni, Bao, Barrows, Bersier, Brant, Brothers, Carlin, Dickerson-Putman, Eller, Foote-Ardah, Ford, Garcia, Gibau, Goldfinger, A. Haas, Hovde, Kissel, Kloesel, Kryder-Reid, Kubitschek, Langsam, Lozovsky, McCormick, Mullen, Mullins, Niklas, Roy, Russell, Sandy, Scarpino, Schneider, Souch, Turner, Ward, Weeden, Wilkins, Wittberg, Wokeck

Guest: James Baldwin, University Library

1. Call to Order. **John McCormick**, President of the Faculty Assembly, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. The minutes of the September 27th meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Dean's Remarks. In the absence of **Dean Saatkamp**, Associate Dean **Catherine Souch** reported that the North Central accreditation visit was recently completed and had, apparently, gone quite well. There are ten searches under way this year for faculty. Despite the tight budget, the Dean was able to approve these, with the advice of the Resources and Planning Committee. As of this point in the cycle, enrollments are up about 5.5 percent for the spring term, which is a positive sign. The Associate Dean and the assembled faculty expressed their thanks, with applause, to **Nancy Newton** and **Mary Trotter** for the successful Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The November meeting of the Faculty Assembly celebrates teaching accomplishments and a list of the highlights is posted on the web at:

<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/downloads/dean/facultyassembly/teachinghighlights2002.pdf>

4. President's Remarks. President **McCormick** reported that he had breakfast recently with **John Short**, Assistant Vice-President for Auxiliary Services. The cafeteria in the basement of Cavanaugh hall will be ready for the start of the spring term on the 13th of January. The situation with the Food Court is largely out of the control of the University as it is privately owned. There is speculation that the Hotel wishes to use the space for some other function and is not interested in doing anything that would encourage vendors to stay open.

5. Committee Business.

a. **Faculty Affairs Committee.** **Herb Brant** noted that there will be awards for outstanding SLA faculty again this year and that nominations would be accepted until the beginning of February. The Committee is preparing a White Paper on issues connected to service in the School. The Committee is attempting to categorize service, define acceptable minima, and so forth. The Committee hopes to bring a document to the Assembly for its consideration at the January

meeting. Anyone with an interest in this White Paper or a suggestion for the Committee is encouraged to contact a Committee member. E-mail might be sent to **Martin Spechler**, Chair, or to members such as **Herb Brant** or **Catherine Souch**.

b. Common Core Curriculum. **Steve Russell** noted that the Committee consists of members from both the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Science. The Committee is currently wrestling with the difficulty that has arisen with Integrator Courses. The Common Core Curriculum, which was adopted by both schools several years ago, requires that students take an Integrator course, an interdisciplinary course, taught by three faculty--one from the humanities, one from the social sciences, and one from the natural sciences. The current difficulty is that there are no integrator courses offered for the spring term and there was only one offered in the fall term.

The Committee has a preliminary draft proposal for policy changes that would encourage more people to design and offer integrator courses. The Committee is suggesting that (1) the definition of an Integrator course be changed so that a single faculty member can teach an Integrator; (2) existing courses can be modified to fit the category; (3) course development funds be made available through the Office of Faculty Development and/or through the Deans of Science and Liberal Arts; and (4) each School should appoint an Integrator "Czar" to line up and encourage the development of Integrator courses.

Any questions or comments about this draft proposal should be directed to **Steve Russell** or other members of the Committee. The Committee intends to bring the final version of the proposal to the Faculty assembly at a later meeting.

Miriam Langsam noted that the Dean's Office has sent out a list of courses that are acceptable as Integrators for graduating students. It is also true that a 300 level course outside the major can be used, in place of a true Integrator course, if there is no other alternative. **Marianne Wokeck** reminded the Assembly that, at the time the Core Curriculum was adopted, the Deans of both Liberal Arts and Science assured the committees involved that the funding for such courses would be forthcoming. In the event, however, it proved difficult to assign credit for the integrator courses, few incentives have been offered and few have been developed. **Miriam Langsam** also noted that only one of the newly developed courses met the full definition of an integrator course, one that has joint faculty involvement from the humanities, the social and the natural sciences. We should work toward a system where a single faculty member can offer a course, with input from faculty in other areas. **Bill Schneider** observed that some incentives were offered but they were not sufficient to overcome the reticence of faculty in developing such courses. Should the School force faculty to develop integrator courses? What is the cost of offering such courses? Some estimate of the cost should be written into any integrator proposal. **Robert Sandy** offered his recollection that the original proposal for integrators only required faculty from two of the three disciplines, not all three.

Missy Kubitschek observed that there are inherent motivation problems

in getting faculty to develop a course outside, or on the edge of their discipline, and these problems are magnified by the difficulty of sharing credit for the courses. The School now has a number of graduate programs. Could we get graduate student/teaching assistants to assist in the development and/or the offering of integrator courses? **Phil Scarpino** stated that such a proposal would not work in History. It is easier to give credit if there is only one faculty member teaching the course. Without monetary incentives, we are trying to “do it on the cheap,” and such efforts rarely succeed.

Miriam Langsam suggested that the School might learn from the example of the Women’s Studies program. When they put together their introductory course, they got perspectives from many disciplines, but there was a single instructor for the course. That way the faculty member gets the rewards and that member’s department gets the credits. But that may be more difficult for integrator courses. We have to really examine whether we can offer integrator courses. **Tim Brothers** noted that he would love to convert one of the courses he is currently teaching into an integrator course if he could enrich it with perspectives from economics, ethics, and so on. But how would the financing of such an effort be handled? **Miriam Langsam** replied that the School of Science has a worse problem in that very few of their courses are accessible to our typical undergraduates. Perhaps only Psychology and Computer Science would be in a position to develop integrators. Each department in Liberal Arts should look at their own courses. Are there some that could be enhanced with perspectives from other disciplines? Perhaps there could be a small stipend for a limited number of guest lecturers?

Faculty members with other ideas or suggestions on the offering of Integrator courses should contact **Steve Russell**.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The Committee recommends approval of changes to the French major. **Gabrielle Bersier** explained that the primary changes are (1) to offer a 1-credit capstone course, which increases the number of hours for a French major from 29 to 30; and (2) the merging of two tracks into a single track, which would have a greater emphasis on applications of language for business and understanding of French and Francophone culture. **Rick Ward** noted that the language in the description of the capstone course, F497, might be altered. As written, it requires students to integrate the knowledge and abilities learned during their earlier course work. That is a tall order for a single course. The motion to approve changes to the French major was approved unanimously.

The Committee also recommends approval of changes to the Political Science major. **Ellen Anderson** explained that the revisions were essentially minor tweaking of the curriculum to get significant improvements. The proposal increases the hours for a Political Science major from 30 to 33 hours, in line with most other disciplines in Liberal Arts. A quantitative analysis course will be required of majors under the new plan, with a wider set of introductory courses required. The intellectual breadth and depth of the program would be enhanced by increasing upper division hours from 12 to 18 and decreasing the introductory

hours from 15 to 12. The new plan eliminates the “semi-required” courses, allowing students to select electives from a broader set of courses, and allows students to count Y101 as an elective to satisfy the major requirements. In response to a question from **Bill Schneider, Anderson** indicated that the new curriculum still requires exposure to other political systems: the major must still take either Introduction to Comparative Politics (Y217) or Introduction to International Relations (Y219). The motion to accept the changes to the Political Science major was approved unanimously.

d. Academic Standards and Policies. **Scott Weeden** reported the Committee’s recommendation for approval of the English Department’s proposal to allow W231, *Professional Writing Skills*, to satisfy the writing requirement, in place of W132, *Elementary Composition II (Research and Argumentation)*. Majors in Liberal Arts departments would have a choice in the requirement for a second writing course. W231 has evolved so that it is now a researched writing course which covers similar ground to that covered in W132. **Miriam Langsam** noted that many of our departments, such as Economics, have to lure students from Business, Science, or Engineering where the students have already taken W231 as a required course. **Dean Langsam** also asked when the effective implementation date would be, as the effective date is missing from the proposal. She added that we can urge students to act as if the new requirement is in effect, but any such change is not mandatory until it appears in a hard copy of the Bulletin. Mark Grove can change the on-line version, but that does not constitute a contract. **Robert Barrows** noted that the University is going more and more on-line, and asked where is it written that the hard-copy of the Bulletin is the contract, and not the on-line version? **David Ford** noted that a disclaimer could be put in the hard-copy version: “For up-to-date requirements, see the On-line Bulletin.” This matter should be brought before the IUPUI Faculty Council. **Ain Haas** observed that the on-line version changes frequently. How could a student document that they were following the relevant policies and procedures as of a certain date? **Paul Carlin** replied that a student could download and print the relevant page. As long as a date appeared on each page, that would be sufficient documentation. The recommendation for a change in SLA policy regarding the second writing course was approved unanimously.

6. Celebration of Teaching. **Richard Turner** noted that the School had received a FIPSE grant to look at Faculty Learning Communities. Over the past year and a half, two faculty from Nursing, one from Anatomy and Physiology, and four from Liberal Arts have been active in the Learning Communities. Three of those reported on their experience. **Wan-ning Bao**, from Sociology, reported on her efforts to introduce multi-culturalism into her course in the form of service learning projects, noting that IUPUI had recently been ranking number 8 in the country out of 1400 colleges in its service learning component. The sociology students’ involvement in door-to-door recruiting for a Crime Watch program, reading to students from the community, and supervising such students in after-school projects enabled our students to understand diversity through

involvement. **Gina Sanchez**, from Anthropology, reported that her main emphasis had been to ask her students to devise a website for A104, *Cultural Anthropology*, which would add an emphasis on diversity. Could we devise a rubric to determine where students were at the end of the course? Had it enabled them to move along the continuum from ethnocentric to culturally diverse?

Regina Turner reported that her initial idea had been to have students read an autobiography and put it in form for a theatrical performance. But that turned out to be too ambitious. However, the students did put together a performance that strings together a whole set of vignettes, organized around the question of how they connect to other very different students in the IUPUI experience. It has original music and dance and, in the end, was about an hour long. It is called, "Chasing the dream: Screams from an Urban Community." **Bill Schneider** asked if that performance was available on video. **Turner** replied, "Not yet."

7. Report on Faculty Council. **Rick Ward** reported on the most recent IUPUI Faculty Council meeting first. He noted that they recommended the approval of Bill Plater as Acting Chancellor for the campus. Chartwell presented its new designs for food service areas. We should be very pleased with them. Chartwell will spend over \$1 million for the areas in Cavanaugh and the University College Building, and an additional \$800,000 for an area in the new Student Center. Chartwell also has an exclusive deal for catering. There will be no more dealing with local caterers. The new dorm should be finished in time to take new residents in August. A policy was discussed to restrict the processing of grade changes to the last five years. The idea is to reduce that further in the future, but the 5-year policy will be voted on at the next meeting of the Faculty Council. **David Ford** observed that Vice-Chancellor **Martin** had, early in the process of negotiating with Chartwell, committed to the idea that units would be allowed to negotiate with local caterers. Would student groups have to use Chartwell even if a cheaper alternative is available?

Ward then reported on the University Faculty Council meeting of 11th November, 2002. The meeting was abbreviated as there was no Administrative officer, either permanent or Acting, at that time. There was a report on the reorganization of the Graduate School. **McRobbie** had been made Vice-President of Research without a search. **Bill Schneider** asked when a search would take place. **Ward** replied that there will be a search for a new Dean of the Graduate School, and the Search Committee had been appointed. There was a lengthy discussion on the Presidential search. The regional campuses wanted more engagement from the President and argued for a greater separation between the President of the IU System and the Bloomington campus. **Marianne Wokeck** noted that the next Faculty Council meeting would be on Thursday, December 5th at 3 p.m. in the Auditorium of the University Place Hotel and Conference Center. There will be a discussion of what the Search Committee should be looking for in a new President. The trustees will be in attendance and will hear what is said. On the question of bringing IUPUI Chancellor candidates to campus, **Gerry Bepko** indicated that, if the last three candidates agree, it might be possible to have campus visits.

8. New Business. Scott Weeden asked if it was possible to have the clocks in Cavanaugh synchronized. President **McCormick** indicated that any centralized system for synchronizing clocks had broken down. Apparently one can remove a clock from the wall and reset it manually.

The meeting was adjourned unanimously, upon a motion by **Langsam** and a second by **Schneider**.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul S. Carlin
Secretary of the Faculty Assembly