

9-3-2009

College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2009 : 09 : 03

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**College of Arts & Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting**

September 3, 2009

DAVIS 100 Conference Room - Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Present: Thomas Smith, Chair
Susan Allen
Julie Armstrong
Martine Fernandes
Thomas Hallock
Jill McCracken
Ella Schmidt

John Arthur 2008-2009 Faculty Council
Sheramy Bundrick 2008-2009 Faculty Council

Absent: Kathy Arthur

College Mission Statement and College Strategic Plan

- The Council agreed to review the College Mission Statement. No commitment at this time to make revisions to the Mission Statement.
- Discussion about whether or not to draft a College Strategic Plan: agreed to put this on the October Faculty Council agenda. Interest in looking into a plan that would be more specific about academic programs and long-term programmatic goals with departments.

2008 – 2009 College Faculty Council Report

- **Safety on Campus:** still a present concern; policies and procedures have not been put into place. Last springs' survey results reveal that most faculty and staff are not aware of procedures on how to protect themselves or their peers if confronted with threatening behavior from someone on campus.

Thomas Smith will contact Anita Sahgel-Patel at the Counseling Center to coordinate a workshop for safety training. Invitations will be extended to the University Police, Academic Affairs, Student Services, the College of Business and College of Education to participate in planning trainings and workshops.

- **Administration and Faculty Communication:** Faculty expressed concern about the disconnection between administrators and faculty and lack of communication. Faculty said they do not feel there is enough information being distributed on policies and decisions made by the administration that affects them.

Concerns about how the Administration makes fiscal decisions in regards to faculty hires; information has not been shared about how the stimulus money has been used and the implication of those decisions; and how priorities are set for spending.

New Business

- **Travel Award Applications and Funding:** For the current year, the Faculty Council will continue to review and approve the College Travel Award applications. The Faculty Council and Department Chairs will continue to work on creating Research budgets for each department; these budgets will be managed at the department level.
- **Undergraduate Class Scheduling:** The VCAA is encouraging undergraduate classes to be held twice a week for 90 minutes rather than once a week for three hours. The reasons: improved pedagogy and student concentration and retention of material. Faculty Council agreed that such a decision should be made at the department level and will encourage future discussion between faculty and administration before this policy is implemented.
- **Study Abroad Support:** Discussion to put forth a proposal for hiring a Director of International Affairs at USFSP. At this time the lack of knowledge on international programs and travel is hurting faculty and students. An ad hoc committee (Tom Hallock, Jill McCracken, and Martine Fernandes) will be formed to draft a statement on behalf of the Faculty Council on International Programs at USFSP.
- **Selection of Faculty Council Vice-Chair:** Tabled for further discussion at the October Faculty Council meeting.

Thomas Smith will serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee in order to seek nominations for several vacancies on the Faculty Council Standing Committees. Julie Armstrong agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.