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College of Arts and Sciences: College Council  
Meeting Minutes

College of Arts and Sciences (COAS)

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3-17-2010

## College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2010 : 03 : 17

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

**March 17, 2010**

DAVIS 100 Conference Room – 10 a.m. to Noon

**Present:** Thomas Smith, Chair  
Susan Allen  
Kathy Arthur  
Thomas Hallock  
Jill McCracken

**Absent:** Martine Fernandes, Ella Schmidt

**International Programs/ Study Abroad**

- Dean Biafora reported that the International Affairs Office at the Tampa campus will provide administrative support and guidance to USFSP regarding study abroad programs and international faculty issues. At this time the Council will work with Administration to create a contract of services expected from Tampa office. In addition it was suggested that a faculty liaison be named to work directly with Tampa office to ensure that procedures are being followed properly and that information is made readily available to USFSP faculty and staff.

**Research at USF / New Investigator and Senior Investigator Research Grants**

- Thomas Smith will follow up with Dr. Noonan to find out when the NIRG and SIRG grants will be reinstated. Dr. Noonan had informed the Council that the NIRG and SIRG grants would be reinstated.
- The Council will ask for a balance of the Campus Research Overhead account to have a better understanding of this budget while making requests for NIRG and SIRG applications.

**Phi Beta Kappa interest**

- Inquiry was made on PBK website to research membership information and procedures. Membership requires that 10% of faculty in the membership application body are Phi Beta Kappa members.
- Thomas Smith will follow up with the Dean to find out if this information is available.
- Jill McCracken and Kathy Arthur (members of PBK) will follow up with their member institutions to find out more details about membership.

### **USFSP CAS direction for Ralph Wilcox visit, March 26, 2010**

- USF Tampa Provost Ralph Wilcox will visit USFSP on March 26, 2010. The CAS Faculty Council will prepare a one-page summary with the College accomplishments and goals. This summary will also be shared with the USFSP Faculty Senate.
  - Suggestions to include:
    - USFSP to be THE campus of choice for Tampa Bay area and also one of the top 20 urban liberal arts colleges in the United States
    - USFSP is a liberal arts urban university with the mission of conducting research and involvement in community and civic engagement
    - USFSP is more than a teaching college; faculty research is equally viable and supports its excellence in teaching
    - Share CAS by-laws with Dr. Wilcox
    - Make mention of Dr. Sullivan's response to *St. Petersburg Times* editorial on liberal arts colleges
    - USFSP faculty are engaged in research while also maintaining high teaching standards in small classroom settings

### **New Business**

#### **Student assessment ratings – how significant are the numbers in mid-probationary review, tenure and promotion, and annual review process?**

- There is not set policy on using the student assessment ratings (numbers) to assign ratings in mid-probationary, tenure and promotion, and the annual review process for teaching. Teaching evaluation should be based on more than student numbers, for example, syllabus, exams, graded papers, etc.
- Numbers can be misleading due to the nature of the course (for example, statistics, and advance mathematics courses)
- Is the Dean using student assessment numbers to assign ratings? Thomas Smith will discuss this with the Dean; however at this time no written policy is in place for the College to follow.

The meeting adjourned at Noon.