



2-28-2016

College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2016 : 02 : 28

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. College of Arts & Sciences.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/coas_college_council_minutes

Scholar Commons Citation

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. College of Arts & Sciences., "College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2016 : 02 : 28" (2016). *College of Arts and Sciences: College Council Meeting Minutes*. 65. https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/coas_college_council_minutes/65

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Arts and Sciences: College Council Meeting Minutes by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

**College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting
26 February 2016
9:30 am to 11:00 am
DAV 236
MINUTES**

Present: Judithanne Scourfield-McLauchlan, Chair; Ella Schmidt; Donny Smoak; Anna Dixon, Norine Noonan, Adrian O'Connor, Jennifer O'Brien, Erika Greenberg-Schneider, Mark Walters

There were also numerous guests including Interim Dean Cornelius, Dr. Barnali Dixon, chairman of ESPG, several ESPG faculty members, and other CAS staff members.

The Meeting was called to order at 9:34 am.

The Minutes of the January 22, 2016 meeting of the Council were set aside until the next regular meeting to allow the entire meeting to be devoted to the Reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences proposal.

The Council was in receipt of the following documents:

1. The proposal (dated 1/29/2016) from the Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to dissolve the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Geography.
2. The USF System Policy 10-055 regarding proposed changes in academic units within the USF System.
3. The ESPG department response (dated 3/7/2016)

The Dean was asked to briefly summarize the proposal. He made two major points:

- The ESPG Master of Arts program admissions were suspended on October 1, 2015. He met with students in the program who expressed grave concerns about their ability to complete the program in a timely way. The Master of Science program is continuing to admit students although the decisions that the department made about financial aid seem to lack transparency and time to degree in the MS program is very problematic.
- The proposal assumes that the MS and possibly also the MA would continue under the guidance of the Dean's office as would supervision of former ESPG faculty. The undergraduate major (ESP) would also continue.

The Department Chairman then noted that the response provided refuted the claims that the graduate programs were struggling and that time to degree was within range of other USF System programs.



Council members engaged in a robust discussion of the issues. Dr. Schmidt noted that perhaps dissolution was a harsh remedy when more moderate actions such as changing departmental leadership might be effective.

Dr. Walters asked about the longer-term picture, that is, what would be the plan for program administration and faculty placement going forward if the Dean's proposal were to be implemented, for example, how would tenure and promotion actions be handled. He suggested that more information was needed. Dr. O'Connor echoed this concern and also asked about other "floating programs" (degree programs without departmental homes) within the USF System.

The Dean responded that USF Tampa has a number of these "virtual departments" and that it was his assumption that the plan would be that ESPG faculty would first seek other departmental "homes" but, if not successful, would be supervised by the Dean's office with regard to degree program delivery.

Ms. Greenberg-Schneider related the experience of the previous turmoil in the Program in Graphic Design and how focusing on a core mission of undergraduate education was key to bringing program faculty together in a productive manner. She suggested that perhaps ESPG should refocus its efforts on what it does well rather than continuing to struggle with what is not going well.

The Council as a whole agreed that this proposal was not yet ripe for action and that more information was needed. A set of questions was agreed on (questions that would be directed to both the Department and to the Dean's office). The plan to send these questions to the respondents with a due date of March 7, 2016 was moved, seconded and approved by the Council. (the request for information is attached to these Minutes).

The Council chair noted that in order to adhere to the schedule set out in USF System Policy 10-055, the Council would need to meet and come to final resolution on this issue no later than March 11, 2016. The Council members agreed to meet from 8:30 am to 9:30 am for the sole purpose of reviewing the responses to the request for follow-up information and to vote on the Dean's proposal.

The Council adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Noonan
Vice Chair

Council Meeting Schedule for Spring 2016

January 22 (9:00 am)
February 26 (9:30 am)
April 1 (9:30 am)
April 29 (9:30 am)