

Minutes of Collegial Assembly of September 11, 2007

Dean Hai-Lung Dai called the assembly to order at 4:11 pm

Minutes

The minutes of April 18, 2007 were approved without change.

Dean's Report

Dean Dai called for acknowledgment of Dr. Khwaja Siddiqui, Lecturer in Biology, for admirable action. D. Baird reported that during a recent Biology field trip, Dr. Siddiqui noticed slippage of the transmission of the van transporting a group of students. Directing the driver to pull over, he noticed smoke emerging from the van, and immediately caused the students to exit the van and move to a safe distance, whereupon the van burst into flame. Dr. Siddiqui's prompt and effective action possibly saved the lives of the students. Dr. Siddiqui received a round of applause from the Assembly. Dean Dai noted that although the van had passed required state inspections, the College was in the process of replacing it because of age before the mishap occurred.

Faculty Hiring

In 2006-07, thanks to the combined efforts of many faculty members, the College successfully recruited 10 new tenure-track faculty, 2 senior and 8 junior, having made offers to only 11 junior faculty candidates. The new faculty members will be introduced by their department chairs at the next Collegial Assembly. In 2007-08, we plan to recruit an additional 9 new faculty members, 4 junior and 5 senior, "senior" defined as holding tenure on appointment.

Space and Facilities

The College completed renovations in 4 buildings at a cost of \$1.5 million, not including in-kind renovations in Beury Hall. Among the renovations was the relocation of Academic Advising, the acquisition of a super computer in Mathematics, a 500 MHz NMR in Chemistry, and a microprobe in Geology, and the installation of a zebrafish facility and a common instrument facility in Biology. For the coming year, \$2.9 million expenditure is planned for renovations. Plans for a new dry-lab building, costing perhaps \$70-\$80 million total, will begin this year.

Dean' Office

Vice Dean G. Palladino announced that Allen Nicholson, who now holds a joint appointment in Biology and Chemistry, had joined the Dean's staff as Associate Dean for research and graduate studies. D. Baird holds the newly created position of Assistant Dean for science education and special projects. Also joining the Dean's staff are Roger Cutitta, Manager of Operations; Brooke Walker, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs; Andrea Hallowell, Assistant Director for Communication; Michael Usino, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Affairs; and Donna Skalski, Administrative Data Manager.

Communications

The CST website has been extensively revised and reformatted. The College will launch two new print publications. *Outlook*, in two issues per year, will address alumni and friends of the College. The *CST Bulletin* will feature individual departments in 2 issues per year, and the college as a whole in two issues.

Development

In the first 6 months of 2007, the College has received \$400 K in individual gifts. We have formed relationships with industry (Wyeth, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, etc.) and foundations such as NMSI, Dreyfus, and Avon, and have set a target of \$1 million per year in grants. Faculty members who have ideas for funding and need help in developing them are invited to contact our Development office.

Faculty Awards

Faculty awards have been established to recognize excellence in teaching and research. For teaching, there are 8 awards: 2 each (for tenure track and non-tenure track faculty) in physical sciences, life sciences, mathematics and computer sciences, one for mentoring, and one Teacher of the Year. One award will be made for research. Awards will be presented at an Awards Dinner on October 4.

Departments

All departmental reviews have now been completed, Geology and Math in 2007. Two new department chairs have been appointed, Justin Yuan Shi in Computer/Information Sciences, and Rongjia Tao in Physics.

Academic programs

New academic programs include AMP Bridges to the Doctorate, targeting minority students; Science Teacher preparation, joint with the College of Education; an entrepreneurship certificate, with the School of Business; and a new BA in Natural Sciences. The name change for the Computer Sciences major has been approved. Several new programs are in progress: a 3+2 BS/MS International program; a PhD/MB; a PhD/MIT; and a PhD in earth/environmental sciences.

Enrollment

CST experienced a 15% increase in the entering freshman class in Fall 2007. Since Fall 2001, CST majors have increased by almost 70%. We are now bringing in about 1000 new students per year, but graduating only about 500 per year. We must improve our graduation rate.

Dean Dai thanked the CST faculty for their support and encouragement during his first 8 months, and looked forward to a continued good working relationship and continued improvements in the College.

Committee Reports

Faculty Senate Steering Committee

R. Aiken noted the need for new Representative Faculty Senators and a new representative to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, as called for by the recent announcement to the faculty listserv. The major activity for FSSC has been working with the Provost in developing a new academic plan by Summer 2008, as directed by the President. The process is to be bottom-up, with faculty participation. The Faculty Senate is to name 35 or 36 faculty; each college is to have 2 participants, named by the colleges' FSSC representatives. CATA is also to be involved in the selection. Because names are due by Tuesday, the CST nominees will be named by R. Aiken and P. Lafollette, unless the college faculty suggests a better process. The President asks that the academic plan focus on undergraduate programs, interdisciplinary programs, the structure of programs and departments, the urban context, and other broad issues. FSSC is also working on the issue of TT/NTT membership in the Faculty Senate, and has met with the GenEd governance group. The new co-director of GenEd, D. Watt, has formed a budgetary task force to advise the administration on funding for GenEd.

Graduate Committee

A. Nicholson reported that the university has contracted with ApplyYourself, the software now in use by the Fox School for graduate applications, and that we hope for quick implementation. Departments will be asked for suggestions on its use. Five non-thesis Master's programs are being developed. The Dean's Office is developing a plan to increase funding support for more graduate students; a proposal will go to the Provost's Office, who have expressed interest in building research in the College.

New Business

The Dean's Advisory Committee presented for first reading the following motion:

A motion to identify the CST Promotion and Tenure Committee as the committee that consults with the Dean on applications for Study Leaves.

In accordance with Article 23.A.3 of the TAUP contract, the Collegial Assembly agrees that the Promotion and Tenure Committee of the College of Science and Technology is the appropriate committee to consult with the Dean on applications for study leaves.

Dean Dai noted that the motion arose from the difficulty of staffing the standing committees of the College when 30 to 40 members are needed, at a time when the tenure-track faculty number just over 100. The Promotion and Tenure Committee is staffed with experienced senior faculty, well able to advise the Dean on a relatively small number of applications for study leaves.

E. Koffman expressed belief that there should be two separate committees because they serve different functions, and that there should be enough faculty available to staff both.

The Dean's Advisory Committee presented for first reading the following motion:

A motion to authorize electronic circulation to the faculty of motions to the Collegial Assembly to serve as the equivalent of First Readings

Whereas, although the Standard Bylaws under which the College of Science and Technology conducts itself do not require two readings of substantive motions presented to the Collegial Assembly, it has been the tradition of the College to conduct two readings of substantive motions prior to a vote, electronic circulation to the full-time faculty of the College of substantive motions proposed by any of the standing committees of the College at least ten days prior to a meeting of the Collegial Assembly shall be considered the equivalent of the traditional first reading.

Dean Dai noted that in the electronic age, communication does not require that first reading be orally delivered, and suggested that the proposed motion would encourage attendance and make better use of the meetings of the Collegial Assembly. J. Sheffield asked whether comment prior to discussion in the Collegial Assembly was envisioned. M. Luehrmann responded that an unmoderated listserv, available to the full-time faculty of the College, had been established for that purpose, identified as CSTFACULTY@LISTSERV.TEMPLE.EDU. J. Sheffield concurred that the motion would encourage attendance. D. Forster noted that in some cases, the Assembly might wish to have two readings, and that at the first meeting, the Assembly could vote on the need for a second. J. Nyquist suggested that Blackboard might be preferable to a listserv because of its ability to provide threaded messages. J. Sheffield responded that Blackboard was harder for some users. J. Shi noted that other software could be set up to track discussions. D. Forster asked whether the plan was to circulate motions via the listserv now used by the Dean's Office, and to hold discussions on the unmoderated faculty listserv. Dean Dai confirmed that this was the plan. J. Sheffield added that the unmoderated listserv would have other uses as well, promoting communication among faculty members.

For the Undergraduate Committee, M. Luehrmann alerted the Assembly of forthcoming motions on proposed changes to the Computer/Information Sciences BA/BS IST program and the IST Minor program, and on a proposed minor in Computer Sciences, and noted the urgency of acting upon the proposals in time to allow submission to the Provost's Office for higher levels of approval. E. Koffman briefly outlined the proposals, which will be made available electronically prior to the next meeting of the Assembly. Discussion noted the possibility that if the motion to authorize electronic circulation to serve as first reading were

passed at the next meeting of the Assembly, a vote on the proposals might be taken at that meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by R. J.