

## **Minutes of Collegial Assembly of April 18, 2007**

J. Sheffield called the assembly to order at 4:08pm

### **Minutes**

The minutes of December 14, 2006 were approved.

### **Dean's Report**

Hai-Lung Dai addressed the assembly for the first time as official Dean of the College of Science and Technology. Noting that, until recently, the resources of the College were inadequate to its mission, he reviewed the main features of the strategic plan developed in recent months. Primary goals are to recruit 30 new faculty in the coming 5 years; provide new quality space for the faculty; establish a paradigm for faculty research and teaching; increase the proportion of research-active faculty from 30% to 60% in 5 years. In addition to these reachable goals, we will also support existing faculty with quality space through renovations; inspire more students to choose careers in science and technology; increase the graduation rate; and elevate the reputation of Temple University. A mechanism will be developed for improving faculty teaching skills, through awards and pedagogical resources. We will develop new programs aimed at preparing students as future leaders in science and technology.

Space: Renovations will begin immediately to provide the quality space necessary for new faculty hires. There will be continuous renovation of Beury and BioLife for wet-lab space for Biology, Chemistry, and Geology. The planned new building will provide dry-lab space for CIS, Math, and Physics. Two plans have been submitted to the University, and have received positive responses from the provostial and presidential levels. It is hoped that approval will be forthcoming soon.

Faculty hiring: 10 faculty searches were approved by central administration, and many faculty present in the assembly are involved in those searches. So far, 2 candidates (one senior, one junior) have agreed to come, and another 5 are likely to come. It is possible we will have 7 new faculty members by Fall. Many candidates have identified Temple as their first choice, citing our competitive packages of salary and support, and the advantages of Philadelphia.

Teaching awards: a process for nomination and selection for the new CST teaching awards will be developed soon, and nomination will be solicited before students leave at the end of the semester. About 8 teaching awards are anticipated for the coming year.

Merit salary nominations: the present method of selective nomination, either by the faculty member, the chair, the Dean, or a colleague, is somewhat odd, and may disfavor those who, for cultural reasons, are reluctant to put themselves

forward. Henceforward, every faculty member should be considered a candidate for merit. Documentation will be made less cumbersome, and will be focused upon recent activity as reported in a short faculty activity report to be considered by the Merit Committee.

Development: Noting that Temple started its first comprehensive development campaign in 2003. and that CST is now actively participating, Dean Dai introduced Brooke Walker, the new CST development officer, and Andrea Hallowell, the new Assistant Director for Communications. Ms. Walker comes to us from the Temple University Library system, and Ms. Hallowell from the Podiatry School.

More good news is anticipated at the next Collegial Assembly.

In response to J. Korsh, Dean Dai noted that CST now has more than 30 vacant faculty lines, and that retirements will reduce our faculty numbers further. The target of 30 new hires is determined not by the number of vacant lines, but by our currently limited resources. Also in response to J. Korsh, J. Sheffield noted that the Dean's Advisory Committee had considered it inadvisable to begin work on drafting proposed bylaws until the CST standing committees were reconstituted in accordance with the Standard Bylaws. The previous rejected bylaws were written to deal with a different administrative structure, and changes in the TAUP contract make it advisable to ensure that the proposed bylaws are in compliance with that contract and with all current university policies. J. Korsh noted that the current administration appears more favorable to faculty governance. O. Chein noted that there is reason to believe that new bylaws would be favorably reviewed, and urged prompt action. J. Sheffield again noted that many provisions of the previously proposed bylaws now require revision for compliance.

## **Committee Reports**

### Faculty Senate Steering Committee

R. Aiken reported that the FSSC was working with the Administration to rectify concerns about policies of the previous administration, such as guidelines for promotion and tenure, General Education, and merit salary. The FSSC is receiving increased participation from members of Administration, in an atmosphere more conducive to collaboration. Some Faculty Senate committees are short of people, especially EPPC, and nominees are needed. Of particular interest to CST is the committee on Research Programs and Policies, which needs members. Another major issue is the need to replace L. Toran on the GEEC. CST nominees are needed quickly. L. Toran received a round of applause for her service, and also urged the need for nominees.

### Graduate Committee

D. Baird reported that through enhanced recruiting efforts, applications to PhD programs had increased, although the numbers of MA/MS applicants had

dropped. The practice of offering Dean's Scholarships to outstanding applicants was continuing; 6 offers had been made, and 2 accepted so far.

J. Nosek presented a motion to approve some modifications to the CIS doctoral program. He noted that the previous proposal had already been approved, and that the Graduate School, though supportive, had asked for reconsideration in the light of the departmental program review. B. Datskovsky expressed doubt that graduate students were strong enough in mathematics to complete the program in 4 years. J. Nosek responded that students would be assigned mentors early in the program, and that students lacking some mathematics could finish the didactic courses in 4 years, although they might take longer than 4 years to complete the program.

J. Sheffield, noting that the program had previously been approved after two readings, and that the present proposal represented only slight modifications, called the question. The proposal was APPROVED without dissent.

#### Undergraduate Committee

S. Jansen Varnum presented the proposal to establish an interdisciplinary program in Mathematics/Science, noting that the proposal had been approved by the Assembly in 2004, and was being presented again because OVPUS wanted reaffirmation by the assembly. The MOTION TO REAFFIRM was approved without dissent. S. Jansen Varnum reported that the Undergraduate Committee had approved two new elective courses, that the proposed BA in Natural Science and the revised Biochemistry program were going to the Board of Trustees with provostial approval, and that the Math Education program would be going soon.

#### Old Business

P. Lafollette asked about progress on the establishment of an unmoderated listserv for the CST faculty. J. Sheffield responded that meetings had been held, and that efforts would be made. Lafollette suggested a motion recording the sense of the assembly that such a listserv be set up before the next Collegial Assembly. Sheffield replied that a listserv name had been established, and that the issue of membership needed to be resolved. B. Conrad noted that similar listservs were targets for phishing messages. Lafollette responded that this problem could be handled by technical means. To G. Palladino's question about legal issues, Sheffield responded that they were no different from those of the existing Faculty Senate listserv. J. Korsh suggested unmoderating the current CST faculty listserv; M. Luehrmann cautioned that some faculty would unsubscribe because of the increased volume.

#### New Business

R. Stafford proposed a MOTION to approve the granting of degrees in May to students who had met the graduation requirements. Having been seconded, the MOTION was APPROVED unanimously.

A. Hughes announced that he and S. Jansen Varnum had worked on a full general statement of waivers from GenEd requirements to replace the previous case-by-case statement, with the effect that, for example, calculus courses would satisfy the QL requirement. The revised statement has apparently been approved by GEEC. J. Sheffield acknowledged this as an important achievement for the college.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by R. J.