

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the Collegial Assembly
April 26, 2006

Sheffield called the meeting to order at 14:50. The following were present:

Biology	Chemistry	CIS	Geology	Math
Amini	Dalton	Aiken	Myer	Chein
Sheffield	Hill	Capps	Nyquist	Conrad
Waring	Sieburth	Hughes	Terry	Hijab
	Stanley	Korsh	Toran	Szyld
Physics	Strongin	Lafollette	Ulmer	Zitarelli
	Varnum	Megalooikonomou		
Burkhardt	Williams	Obradovic	Library	College
Dubeck		Poe		
Hasan		Stafford	Sneff	Baird
Lyyra		Stevens	Szigeti	Jenkins
		Vucetic		Luehrmann
				Sadeghipour
				Singh

Minutes

The minutes of October 26, 2005 were approved.

Dean's Report

Dennis Terry has won the Lindback Award, and the dean offered his congratulations.

Undergraduate headcount is up 29% since fall 2002. Over the same period, graduate headcount is down 17%. The rising undergraduate teaching load and shortage of graduate students to serve as TA's has put pressure on the College faculty and staff. The College has not been authorized to hire tenure-track faculty members for several years and has been forced to hire numerous full-time non-tenure track (NTT) faculty members. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the ratio TT:NTT, where TT stands for

the population of tenured or tenure track faculty members.. Enrollment projections, based on paid deposits, indicate that our undergraduate headcount will be about the same next year. The College office is trying to accelerate TA appointments, and has processed twice as many as at this time last year. Emoluments, including stipend increases, awards, and dean's scholarships, have been offered. So far, 14 offers have been made, 7 of which have been accepted so far. It is hoped that the College will assemble a good pool of graduate students. This will make tenure-track job offers more attractive when the College is permitted to recruit. **Forster** asked if the headcount statistics were for the University or the College, and for the specifics of the College's graduate recruiting strategy. The dean responded that the statistics were for the College. We are working on advertisements, and setting up Dean's scholarships. The Department of Chemistry is sending faculty members to give talks at feeder schools. **Chein** asked if there would be more TA lines. The dean responded that the Graduate School had not given any new lines to the College, but the College was using its budget to create new lines. Because the acceptance rate is less than 100%, the College is willing to allow departments to make offers in addition to their allotments; the risk will be covered by the Dean's budget. Departments were encouraged to extend offers to all highly qualified applicants. **Hasan** suggested that the Dean's Office could increase each department's TA allocation by 50%. The dean declined to accept this suggestion, but reiterated that his office is in constant communication with departments.

The College has spent \$331K on instructional technology. The project to upgrade research space in the fourth floor of the Bio-Life building is nearly complete, and its costs are under budget. The space may be used by some unit outside CST, but if so, the College will insist that equivalent space be renovated for the use of the College. Renovation of Barton Hall is now being planned.

The science libraries are being moved to the Central library. This will cause some inconvenience, but an effort is promised to keep that at a minimum. No faculty member's research will be impeded, and the space freed by moving the libraries will be suited for research. **Dalton** asked where the books would go. The dean replied that they would go to the third floor of Paley Library — but unnecessary books would be put in storage in the Kardon Building. The College has proposed to keep at least one science library open until space for a complete science library is available in Paley.

The college has managed to save \$450K to be used toward startup costs

by economies such as cancellation of small classes.

Program Reviews

- Chemistry and Physics have completed their reviews, received the reviewers reports, and written their responses.
- Biology has completed its review, but the report has not yet arrived.
- CIS reviewers have begun their campus visit today.
- Math and Geology will be reviewed in 2006-07.

Hiring plans for next year are now under discussion. Hiring of NTT who will teach in the fall is under way.

Hasan asked if a policy on workload credit for independent study had been established. The dean responded that the guidelines had not been released yet.

Committee Reports

Advisory Committee (Joel Sheffield)

The committee has been considering the effect that the dwindling number of tenured/tenure track faculty is having on the College. It has also considered the question of the number of readings required for a motion before this body. **Chein** commented that if there is to be only one reading, then the motion should be distributed in advance.

Graduate Committee (Jim Korsh)

The requirements for a revised PhD program in Computer & Information Sciences were distributed at the meeting, and are attached to the official copy of these minutes. The objective of the requirements is to attract more, and better doctoral students. Research will start early in the program, enabling students to publish papers well before graduation. **Nyquist** wondered if it was realistic to start research after only one year of graduate study. Korsh responded that the faculty members who were hired in 2000-2001 were behind this proposal, and felt that it was feasible. **Hasan** said new students should

always be involved in research. **Sheffield** wondered why students would be allowed to postpone their second prelim until year 4. Korsh responded that this would only happen in extreme cases; students would be encouraged to take the second prelim in their third year.

The discussion from this point centered on the need for another reading, rather than the specifics of the program. **Ulmer** counted 37 faculty members present. **Forster** couldn't remember ever changing a curriculum without two readings. **Stafford** felt that an additional reading would be unnecessary. **Varnum** said that if two readings were required, the Assembly would have to meet more frequently. **Chein** said we have too few meetings, and asked if it would be possible to have a second meeting this year.

Returning to the substance of the motion, **Forster** asked if there was a thesis defense. Korsh responded in the affirmative. Forster asked what distinguished this curriculum from the current program. Korsh responded that there were fewer didactic issues. The Qualifier would be on three core areas.

Discussion exhausted, the motion was passed unanimously.

Undergraduate Committee (Susan Jansen Varnum)

The committee has approved a new course, Chemistry 55, which is designed for students who are not prepared for Chemistry C073 (General Chemistry). A placement exam in chemistry is planned, but not yet implemented. The course would be suitable for the BA in the Natural Sciences. **Hasan** suggested that Chemistry 55 could be offered in the summer, so as not to lengthen the critical path toward the baccalaureate.

The question of the number of readings arose again; Varnum noted that the bulletin deadline was in five days. There was a vote: 17 favored one reading; 8 would require two. It was reiterated that it would be helpful if motions to be voted upon were distributed in advance.

The Committee has noted that Math 127, Chemistry 129, and Biology 101 are pre-or co-requisites for courses required by the Biochemistry major. To clarify the requirements of this major, these courses should be included explicitly as requires courses. Further, Chemistry 232 should be substituted for a Biochemistry elective. In answer to a question from **Nyquist** Varnum said that this proposal would bring the number of credits for required courses in the major to 78. An additional 26 credits would be needed to satisfy General Education. **Ulmer** asked for a comparison with the ACS accredited

BS curriculum in Chemistry. Varnum said that would be between 72 and 76 credits in major courses, depending on the choice of electives. **Forster** said it was illogical to require Chem 232 (Physical Chemistry II) and not advanced biochemistry. **Stanley** responded to Forster, saying that many Biochemistry majors are pre-meds, and the MCAT requires quantum theory, covered in Chemistry 232. **Sheffield** asked how many biochemistry majors take Chemistry 232 now. Stanley responded that they don't take it, because they avoid courses with high mathematical content. But they should take it. **Chein** said that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee is concerned about over-prescribed majors, and this one is a violation. **Varnum** pointed out that then almost all science majors are in violation. Stanley added that this major is light in comparison with ACS-accredited majors at other institutions. Varnum asked if having only one one elective was typical for majors in this College. **Singh** responded that it was not. She added that the existence of "hidden required courses" — which are prerequisites for courses that are explicitly required for biochemistry majors — causes confusion.

Forster asked to separate the motion into two: the first making the prerequisites explicit degree requirements; and the second being to require Chemistry 232 in place of an elective. **Varnum** said that requiring prerequisite courses to be explicitly recognized as degree requirements was a prerogative of the Undergraduate Committee and not subject to vote.

The motion to replace one one of the Biochemistry electives with Chemistry 232 then passed, by a vote of 21 to 2.

Approval of degrees.

Dubeck moved that the Assembly endorses in advance the decisions of the College Administration in the awarding of degrees on May 18, 2006. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

LaFollette announced that Senate elections were now electronic, and encouraged all to vote. He also urged the Dean's office to create an open faculty listserv to facilitate discussion of motions that were to be voted on after only one reading.

Chein said that the College assembly should meet more than once per semester.

Singh said that the Faculty/Staff campaign was having a luncheon 12:15-14:15 on May 18, and urged all to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16:24.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Conrad