

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the Collegial Assembly  
May 7, 2003

**Dubeck** called the meeting to order at 2:42 PM. The following were present:

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>CIS</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Physics</b>
Amini	Bloomer	Aiken	Chein	Dubeck
Hillman, R.	Dalton	Friedman	Conrad, B.	Gawlinski
Waring	Feng	Koffman	Coughlin	Intemann
	Hill, D.T.	Kwatny	Datskovsky	Luehrmann
	Jansen	Lakaemper	Grinberg	Riseborough
	Nicholson	Obradovic	Letzter	
	Sieburth	Poe	Nathan	<b>Dean's Office</b>
	Stanley	Stafford	Raymon	
	Strongin	Wolfgang	Schiller	Gatsoulas
			Spellman	Jenkins
			Szyld	Platsoucas
			Thornton	Wacker

### Approval of minutes

The minutes of December 12, 2002 were approved.

### Dean's Report

An important issue this spring has been the proposed revision of the Core. The Core review has considered decreasing Mathematics/Science requirement. Although this will have a considerable impact on the credit hours generated by the College, this is not the reason for our objection, because the deficit will be compensated by the rapidly increasing numbers of CST majors. To protect the intellectual integrity of the University, we need to ensure that all Temple students have enough exposure to mathematics and science, and receive formal instruction in computer science. A critical impasse occurred when the requirements were worded to require — in addition

to two mathematics or science courses in the first year — a math *and/or* science course in the second year. The impasse was resolved in favor of “and,” and we have to thank our colleagues on the Core task force, Drs. Luehrmann, Dubeck, Gawlinski, Nyquist, and Schiller for effective representation of the importance of mathematics and science instruction for our students.

Dubeck reminded the Assembly of the University Faculty Senate meeting on May 9, 2003. **Nathan** added that it would include a town meeting about the Core. He added that once the task force completes its work, the document will require a series of approvals: EPPC, Steering Committee, and the Faculty Senate. The president has said that he will endorse the outcome of this process. The change will affect the core-to-core transfer, and the changes will need to be phased in for transfer students.

We are frequently asked, “What are you doing for undergraduate education?” Our response is that this college has had a 68% increase in majors since 1998. Deposits for new freshmen, to matriculate in fall 2003, are up 35% over the previous year. We have established a new bachelor’s degree program (Information Science & Technology), and others are under development. In the department of Biology, many of the new faculty have substantial buyouts financed by their research grants, but they have created 8 new courses that are state-of-the-art. There are 6 new courses in CIS. There are allegations that we don’t teach mathematics and science well, based on the poor showing of our students on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). We should note that performance of Temple students on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) is even worse. The real problem is that our students are not accustomed to reading fast. We have instituted MCAT prep classes, with greatly reduced fees, for CST students. The College is also involved in a collaborative efforts with the School of Education in giving science/math content courses for pre- and in-service teachers from the School District of Philadelphia.

## **Faculty Recruitment**

The College was authorized to search for six faculty members in the past year. We have managed to fill three of the six positions. One offer was turned down; another was denied by the President because the candidate was awarded his Ph.D. by Temple. The President said that he would not approve any appointment of a Temple Ph.D. unless the candidate had previously attained tenure at another institution.

The College has requested to recruit for nine positions, and has been told that a decision on its request will be reached before the end of May. Our searches will have to be complete, with dossiers in the Vice Provost's office in November.

**Datskovsky** expressed concern about the early deadline, because in Mathematics it is customary to advertise with deadlines for submission in the range December 1 – January 15.

## **Bylaws Committee**

The College has appointed a Bylaws Committee, consisting of the following faculty members: Leroy Dubeck (Physics), Tomasz Skorski (Biology/Biotechnology), Jon Nyquist (Geology), Ralph Jenkins (Office of the Dean), Louis Raymon (Mathematics), Zoran Obradovic (CIS/Information Science & Technology), and Allen Nicholson (Chemistry/Biotechnology).

## **Budget**

The Governor has withheld 5% of the University's state appropriation. This means the level of appropriation has not changed, but we get only 95% of the money. This withholding will be reflected in department budgets. Departments are being asked to prepare budget reductions at levels of  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  and 1%.

For next year, the Governor's budget message proposes a 5% cut in the University's appropriation. We must assume that this cut will occur. To balance the budget, each college is asked to prepare 1% and 2% budget cuts: for this college, that would be \$212K and \$424K, respectively. We also expect an enrollment increase in the range of  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  –  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$

The Faculty Senate Budget Committee has proposed an initiative to reduce the percentage of instruction performed by part-time faculty. This would be accomplished by converting part-time positions into full-time Dean's appointment faculty. The initiative also increases funds for student services. To pay for this initiative, a 7–8% increase in tuition will suffice. We will know if there is to be a tuition increase, and if the initiative will go forward, by June 1.

## **Renovations**

The plans for the renovations to occur on the fourth floor of the BioLife Building have been sent to NIH for review. Construction is expected to begin in October or November, and to be completed by the end of the spring 2004 semester. These renovations include a Biosafety level 3 laboratory and a total of 10,000 square feet of space.

The Office of the Vice President for Research has funded the renovation of the distilled water in the BioLife building, which had become polluted.

Another construction grant is being prepared, this for the renovation of the animal facility on the first. The grant will be for \$4 million, with a \$4 million match from Temple. The reaction from the Office of the Provost has been positive.

## **Graduate Student Appointments**

**Intemann** reported that the University has decided to establish minimum grade requirements for the appointment of teaching assistants and research assistants paid by institutional funds. New graduate students with undergraduate GPAs less than 3.25, and continuing graduate students with GPAs less than 3.5 are disqualified for institutional support. Without initially specifying any general criteria, Dr. Aquiles Iglesias, the Dean of the Graduate School, has said that he may approve waivers of these minima in particular cases. Some departments have negotiated a waiver policy that would apply to their newly admitted graduate students, viz.: an entering student whose undergraduate GPA is between 3.0 and 3.25 is eligible for an exception to the minimum GPA policy if he or she scored in the 65th percentile or better on at least one part of the GRE exam.

The Faculty Senate, the Graduate Board, and the Graduate Faculty have all passed motions opposing the minimum GPA policy.

**Datskovsky** observed that the policy will encourage grade inflation.

## **Adjunct faculty**

**Jenkins** presented a summary of the University's new policy on the appointment of adjunct faculty members. The policy will be observed, insofar as it is delineated by the available draft, in the first summer session of 2003. It will become official on July 1, in time for the second summer session. The pol-

icy imposes minimum qualifications for adjunct faculty members, a master's degree or at least 30 credit hours graduate study in the field. It also specifies compensation rates. There is a clause permitting the appointment of adjunct faculty members who have extraordinary accomplishments in lieu of graduate credentials. An approval from the Provost will be required in order to appoint any full-time University employee to an adjunct faculty position.

**Jansen** asked if the compensation rate would be \$1030 per credit hour. Jenkins replied that the College would be required to pay adjuncts according to a nine-step schedule. Each adjunct faculty member will be designated a pay scale level, from which he or she may advance in future years as experience and distinction accumulates, but he or she may never be reduced to a lower level. All adjunct faculty members at a given pay scale level will receive the same compensation rate per credit hour. In the draft policy, the per credit hour compensation rates form an arithmetic progression, with the lowest compensation rate being \$1030, and the increment in compensation between two consecutive levels being \$515. These increments are rather large, and may present a problem. Full-time graduate students who teach in the summer sessions will be considered to be teaching assistants (possibly part-time). Part-time graduate students who do not have commitments exceeding 10 hours per week as research assistants may be appointed to adjunct positions, if they have the qualifying credentials. **Schiller** asked if teaching assistants were allowed to tutor in the Mathematical Sciences Resource Center (MSRC), and noted that its director, Mona Zaoudeh, was of the opinion that this would be forbidden by the policy. Jenkins said that this would be allowed, as long as the TA's were compensated according to the TA compensation rate.

**Friedman** asked if undergraduate lab assistants could be used. The Dean replied that we must seek the approval of the Provost before using undergraduates in any instructional capacity.

## Announcements

- The Dean announced that total grant support in the College now exceeds \$20 million per year. He introduced the College's new Director of Finance and Administration, Gregory Wacker.
- The course and teaching evaluations for the fall have been assembled

and returned to the faculty.

- **Chein** announced that he has been selected as the College's contact person for "Blackboard," the web device for posting course material. A new version of the program has been installed, and any existing course material that is to be used in the future must *migrate* to the new system. The deadline for requesting migration is July 2, 2003.

## Committee reports

### Undergraduate Committee

**Stafford** presented a proposed joint bachelor's program in Mathematics and Computer & Information Sciences. The proposed degree requirements were distributed at the meeting, and form an appendix to these minutes. **Chein** moved that the program be approved, and **Dubeck** seconded the motion. There was no debate, and the motion passed unanimously.

### Graduate Committee

**Riseborough** presented a motion from the Committee to change the name of the master's degree in Biology from M.A. to M.S. The motion passed unanimously.

### CST Core Review Committee

**Gawlinski** reported that the Committee had completed its work, and moved a vote of thanks to its members for their efforts: Boris Datskovsky, Susan Jansen, Zebulon Kendrick, Gene Kwatny, Mia Luehrmann, Jon Nyquist, Jack Schiller, and Dennis Silage.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Conrad