

Approved Minutes – 12/14/2006 without change

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the Collegial Assembly: November 8, 2006

Joel Sheffield called the meeting to order at 3:47pm.

Minutes

The minutes of September 27, 2006 were approved without change.

Report by Dean-Designee

J. Sheffield introduced Dean-Designee Dr. Hai-Lung Dai, and Vice Dean Dr. George Palladino. Dr. Dai noted that it was a pleasure and an honor to address the assembly as the next Dean of the College of Science and Technology. He announced that Palladino, Ph.D. in organic chemistry, retired Colonel of the U.S. Army, and former Vice Chair and Executive Director of the Chemistry Department of the University of Pennsylvania, would serve as Vice Dean for Administration and Operations. Dr. Dai noted the challenges and opportunities that the college faces. Temple, the 11th largest U.S. university, has a 6-year graduation rate of only 58%; CST, with over 3000 students, has only 108 tenure-track faculty. The faculty is under-sized and under-supported, which seriously impedes the CST mission of scientific discovery and knowledge dissemination. Dr. Dai outlined the actions we will take to respond to this challenge:

Faculty development: we will seek new resources from the university and from development; begin an aggressive hiring program with competitive startup in both junior and senior positions; create new high-quality space through renovation and new construction; establish a fair and reasonable paradigm for faculty responsibilities, with balance between research and teaching.

Improvement of educational quality: we will improve the graduation rate; inspire more students to pursue Science/Technology careers; develop mechanisms for improving faculty teaching skills; develop new programs aimed at preparing students as future leaders in science and technology.

Development of intellectual areas: because of our small size, we will focus our strength in selected areas to be competitive; stimulate synergy across departmental boundaries in hiring, space, and facilities, increasing collaboration to compete for funding and to induce new discoveries; develop cross-disciplinary efforts in areas such as environmental science, energy, materials, and technology.

We will build in stages, recognizing that resources are limited, that some developments depend on the successful implementation of others, that continued support depends upon initial success, and that patience is required. We must succeed now; we cannot afford to miss the long-awaited opportunity provided by the new leadership of the university. For the future of this country, we cannot

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afford to allow the 11th largest university in the country to fail in renewing and developing the College of Science and Technology.

On behalf of the faculty, Sheffield thanked Dr. Dai for beginning an extensive dialog about the future of the college.

Committee Reports

Provost Search Committee

S. Amini reported that the committee members were, as usual, sworn to confidentiality. Several search firms were interviewed, and one was selected that is not involved in another Provost's search. The head of the firm is a Temple alumnus, and therefore knows the university. Faculty meetings with the search firm held on campus had a disappointingly low turnout, as did separate meetings with department chairs. President Hart has asked for two to four candidates. The Provost is to be highly visible, will be in charge of developing academic programs, and will be involved in student affairs. To questions, Amini responded that a job description had been written and sent to the search firm, and that no public advertisement had appeared yet, at the President's decision. R. Levis noted that the Provost's position would be very important, because the chairs had been told that the Provost would lead the academic side of the university, while the President would be concerned with fund-raising. R. Stanley asked whether thought had been given to a Vice Presidency for graduate affairs, particularly TA funding and research. Amini replied that the Dean of the Graduate School is a member of the search committee, and that the matter had been brought up. J. Nyquist asked whether the relationship between teaching and research had been discussed. Amini replied that it had, that we want a Provost who understands the relationship, and who understands science, but that the President was not favoring any academic area in the search. The target date for selection is March, or at latest, the end of the academic year.

Faculty Senate Steering Committee

P. Lafollette reported that two main issues had occupied the committee: the search for the Provost, and revision of the *Faculty Handbook*. The new contract and the new Presidency make revision appropriate. Among the issues to be addressed in the future is membership in the Faculty Senate; should Non-Tenure Track faculty be eligible to be representative senators and have voting rights? Another is the number of free electives required for General Education, and the consequent effect upon CST majors. The FSSC was asked by R. Brown, chair of the Provost search committee, to invite their constituents to bring the names of Provost candidates to the attention of the search committee. Lafollette urged the faculty to be aware of the activities of the Faculty Senate and to attend meetings, and agreed to a request by M. Luehrmann that Non-Tenure Track faculty should be included in the Faculty Senate listserv because of their interest in pedagogical issues.

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Undergraduate Committee

Because S. Jansen Varnum was attending another meeting, M. Luehrmann reported. The committee had focused on General Education issues, particularly free electives, and was working with the Dean's Office to make a case for changes that will serve our students. Another issue was the enforcement of prerequisites in large undergraduate courses. Work has been started on developing a website for flow charts for the use of advisors and students; these charts will display pathways through course requirements depending upon initial Math placement. They will be distributed to departments for checking before display. Some program changes, e.g. a name change in Computer and Information Sciences, a Math track for education majors, changes in Biochemistry, and the creation of a Natural Science major, are awaiting input from the new Dean. R. Stanley asked about implementation of software that would prevent students from registering for courses they are not prepared for. Luehrmann replied that university systems at present cannot unify ISIS records with text records of waivers, and some prerequisites and exceptions are not defined clearly enough to permit automated de-registration. We have a batch program that lists students in certain courses who appear to lack prerequisites; that list is then inspected and verified before de-enrollment. Lafollette noted that telephone and on-line registration had adversely affected our students, and suggested required yearly meetings with professional advisors, because degree requirements were now too complex to be left to amateur advisors.

Graduate Committee

D. Baird reported. With recruiting of new graduate students under way, the committee is discussing needed improvements to the web site, a key recruiting tool. V. Ganesan is now on staff to assist with website development. We need to increase the number of qualified applicants to support new faculty hiring. Baird and some faculty members have visited local educational fairs and some companies to do recruiting. Nyquist noted the frequent advertising done by the Fox School of Business, and suggested that CST advertise. L. Toran asked about progress in getting more TA lines; Baird noted that negotiations with the Graduate School were ongoing, but that no decisions had been made yet. P. Riseborough noted the need to increase stipends. M. Lyyra, noting the success of Psychology in winning Future Faculty Fellowships and University Fellowships, asked about plans for energizing departments to pursue these awards; Baird replied that some departments had mentioned the availability of fellowships in their recruiting materials. J. Korsh cautioned that success in recruiting will depend upon the value the new Provost places on increased resources for graduate education.

New Business

Sheffield reported that the CST Dean's Advisory Committee would work with the new Dean on collegial bylaws that would recognize the college's needs, the provisions of the new contract, the new status of Non-Tenure Track faculty, and other issues, and urged to faculty to review both the standard bylaws and the old

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proposed bylaws. To a question by Korsh, he noted that all versions of the bylaws are available on the CST website (at <http://www.temple.edu/cst/bylaws.html>). To a question by Lafollette, he replied that work on the new CST faculty listserv was in progress; a decision on who should be included needs to be made, and the list must be tested.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,