

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Minutes of the Collegial Assembly  
November 12, 2004

**Aiken** called the meeting to order at 2:44 PM. The following were present:

<b>Biology</b>	<b>CIS</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Dean's Office</b>
Amini	Aiken	Chein	Conrad
Sanders	Hughes	Nathan	Intemann
Sheffield	Ingargiola	Schiller	Jenkins
	Poe	Szyld	Luehrmann
	Stafford		Nicholson, A.
	Wolfgang	<b>Physics</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Geology</b>	Burkhardt	
Levis		Lyyra	Lane
Sieburth	Grandstaff	Martoff	Sneff
Wunder	Nyquist	Riseborough	Szigetti

### Library Search

Gretchen Sneff reported that four candidates have been interviewed for the position of Vice Provost and Director of the University Libraries.

### Dean's Report

**Dean Nicholson** is developing a strategic plan for the College. He expects to have a draft strategic plan posted on the College web site soon, and welcomes comments and suggestions.

At a recent leadership meeting, President Adamany spoke at length about his plans for the University. He noted that the Philadelphia metropolitan area is the country's fifth or sixth largest, and does not attract its share of federal research dollars. The president is prepared to provide additional resources to enhance the University's research mission. It is to be hoped that CST will receive a significant share of new resources for research.

Our strategic plan must include a more active development component, consistent with the University's \$300 million campaign.

The strategic plan will envision hiring in all areas. Our model, with six departments, is the same as the one for the sciences at our peer colleges. Our enrollment trends show rapid growth in areas that are cognates for the health sciences.

The strategic plan includes a new building for the Science & Technology campus, to house the Mathematics and the Computer & Information Sciences Departments, as well as the Office of the Dean and CST's Office of Student Services. The Biology-Life Sciences building will need a full renovation. To alleviate space pressure in the life sciences, we will need a new Interdisciplinary Physical-Molecular Science building. The new buildings should be situated so as to bring the departments together, and will make it possible to have a Science & Engineering library that is not fragmented (its current status), and is convenient to all.

Enhancements to undergraduate education will include a more comprehensive Honors Program that we now have, increased emphasis on research opportunities for undergraduates, funding for scholarships, and a redesigned General Education program.

One of the obstacles that we face is graduate student recruiting. To be successful, we need to offer competitive stipends, and to find new ways to attract good applicants.

Issues that the College needs to address include

- Should we outsource our machining, or should we staff and maintain the Barton Hall machine shop facility?
- Should the College have an associate dean for research, to replace Eric Grinberg?
- Should the College employ a computer support person?

## Development

**Greg Murphy** outlined plans for a greatly expanded Alumni Board and a Board of Visitors for the College.

## Approval of minutes

The minutes of October 1, 2004 were approved.

## Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Orin Chein, our representative on the Steering Committee, outlined the negotiations occurring between the Faculty Senate and the President and Provost regarding a compromise between their General Education proposal and the faculty Senate's May 4 proposal. Orin noted that the President does not believe that General Education courses should have a laboratory component. However, the decision will be left to the Gen. Ed. Steering Committee. The Gen. Ed. program will involve a much smaller number of courses than the current Core program does. Each course will have a coordinator, to be chosen in conjunction with the Faculty Senate (in the form of one of its committees: either the Steering Committee or EPPC).

A discussion of General Education ensued. **Friedman** stated that the May 4 document did not include the Steering Committee amendments. Chein said that we would not gain by not working for a compromise with the administration. **Ingargiola** expressed concern that he had students in his classes who had had four math courses, and still couldn't add fractions. Chein reminded him that the president had said that the General Education math course should not focus on computational skills. **Sheffield** pointed out that a controlled study had shown that labs do enhance learning. As with most studies of this sort, the experimental group and the control group were self-selected. **Nathan** said that President Adamany had insisted that there be only one Math Gen. Ed. course, and one Science. We need to reason with the president. **Stafford** said that the Faculty know why labs are needed, and that Central Administration needs to consult them. It was pointed out that the Core Committee would have to decide if students majoring in the sciences should be exempt from the quantitative Gen. Ed. course. Aiken said that the motion voted on by the Faculty Senate on November 23 should be a faculty proposal. Dan O'Hara has said that the Gen. Ed. proposal will have its second reading on the 23rd.

## Associate Deans' reports

**Conrad** said that at a recent meeting of associate deans, the vice provost for undergraduate studies had said that the president wanted students to have about one-third of their credit hours free to take electives that might not be related to their majors. With about one-third going also to the Core, that left only one third for the major (to be precise, 46 credit hours). To counter this initiative, departments need to be able to defend the number of credit hours required of their majors (if it is more than 46 credit hours). One approach would be to survey the degree requirements at other institutions for the same majors.

The College is developing a special listserv, called CST-SEMINAR, to announce colloquia and seminars. Initially, the subscriber list will be identical to that of the CST-L listserv. However, anyone will be allowed to join or leave the seminar listserv.

**Luehrmann** encouraged faculty to develop teaching portfolios. The College web site has a page on developing teaching portfolios (in the "Faculty Resources" section).

## Dean Search

There was an update on the composition of the search committee, which will include the following faculty members from this college: Terry, Hijab, Obradovic, Riseborough, Sheffield, and Strongin. It will also include Carolyn Adams, Ronald Brown (Chair), Martin Dorph, an alumnus, another faculty member, and students. The undergraduate student member will be Sarah Baker. The first meeting will be in early December. The job description awaits the approval by the president.

## Committee Reports

**Riseborough** reported for the Graduate Committee on a two-tiered system favored by the Graduate School administration, but opposed by the graduate committee. It was introduced at the Graduate Faculty meeting, but not voted upon. It will be considered again at the next Graduate Faculty meeting, with a vote. This meeting is still not scheduled.

**Adjournment** After an announcement that the next meeting will be on Dec. 9, the meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Conrad