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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee Meeting, Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee

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PSC Jan 17

Present: Barry Levis, David Charles, Emily Russell, Robert Vander Poppen, Julia Foster, Michael Buck, J Vasone, Bob Smither, Dorothy Mays (secretary). Julie Carrington had a conflicting meeting.

The meeting was devoted to how PSC shall implement changes into the bylaws to take account of the new CPS. The Executive Council charged us with implementing the changes recommended by last summer's ad-hoc committee.

1) Procedure for By-law changes.

a. What have we learned in light of the online survey? (based on 53 respondents)

- i. The feedback seems to be conflicted. Although there was support for CPS membership on A&S committees, people felt that CPS should not have voting privileges in areas pertaining only to A&S business, and yet many thought this was contrary to the spirit of collegiality. Additionally, they want us to act quickly, but we should have more discussions. The narrative comments suggest there are pockets of intense feelings, and yet less than half of the people who got the survey responded.
- ii. Only 16% of the respondents believed CPS should be able to vote on strictly A&S issues. 17% did not want us to act quickly....and given that only around 50% of the faculty responded (can we assume those who didn't respond did not have passionate views?)
- iii. Some comments indicated a desire for a campus-wide AAC. Although there may be some wisdom to this, the committee concluded there was no way to do this in an expedient fashion. We will be following the minimalist approach for the near-term.
- iv. Joan observed that at the last faculty meeting, people did not seem ready to passionately engage in a discussion about the bylaws issues. Given the tepid response at the meeting, and the tone of the online survey, there seems to be a "movement to move forward."
- v. Based on survey results and our committee discussions, we will recommend allowing CPS voting membership on A&S committees, with the requirement that the CPS member recuses themselves on matters pertaining only to A&S issues.
- vi. After looking at the online responses and discussing the issue, we decided to recommend that CPS members should not be able to chair an A&S committee, because then they would be representing the committee to the EC meetings.

b. Procedural thoughts for amending the bylaws.

- i. Based on our discussion and the results of the survey, PSC will recommend accepting a CPS representative to sit on A&S committees. We recommend they have voting privileges only on matters relating to both schools. Joan will inform the Executive Council of our decision, and will bring it before the next faculty meeting.

- ii. Emily: What happens if there is a policy which is going to apply to all students (the attendance policy) and it ends up getting voted on at both the A&S and CPS meetings and there is a conflicting result? Joan believes that the Provost would have the power to render a decision. The A&S bylaws currently read that policy is passed if a committee recommends something and the faculty vote to pass it. What then happens because we've got two separate faculties, but we only have one student body. Would we need to formally write something in the rules about what happens in such a case? Go to Executive Council or Provost? Should we go to Carol for guidance? In such a case, rules say it goes to EC. What if A&S votes on the matter and CPS does not? For this situation, there is no clear policy. Joan says this issue beyond our control, and she can bring it up to the Provost.

c. What are the recommended bylaw changes?

- i. Emily served on last summer's ad-hoc committee, and has the recommended changes. She distributed the document to committee members with the proposed changes.

Other discussions relating to the creation of CPS and by-laws:

Right now, A&S is in control of Gen Education. A&S has the ability to tinker with the requirements, and CPS and their students are bound to accept.

CPS has its own FEC. The Dean in CPS has more power than the Dean in A&S relating to tenure and promotion issues. There will be no A&S representative sitting on the CPS equivalent of FEC, because it is a lot of work and without a vote, it seems meaningless.

In light of the controversy caused by the minor bylaw changes relating to dates made by last year's PSC, we should keep our mandate as narrow as possible, following the "minimalist change" recommended by the ad-hoc committee.

We should accept the results of the survey as a mandate to move forward. Our recommendation that we restrict what CPS can vote on, it is a modification of what the ad-hoc committee recommended, which gave CPS full voting rights. Emily voiced concern that CPS would respond with the same banning of voting privileges to A&S members who sit on CPS committees, but the general consensus was that it didn't really matter much. The only CPS committee A&S can sit on is their AAC committee. There won't be much business because they've only got three majors. We don't think it's worth granting them voting on all our committees in exchange for that minor bit of influence.

What about graduate programs? Graduate programs (except for Crummer) live in Holt, which is under the purview of A&S faculty..... but in the coming years we may have graduate programs that are staffed primarily by CPS faculty (graduate 3/2 program in Health Sciences?) This isn't currently clear who would

have control of such programs. A&S bylaws clearly give us oversight of all Holt programs. Communication made changes to their Holt undergraduate requirements without going through A&S. We believe the changes in the undergraduate Communication major in Holt SHOULD have gone through A&S's AAC. We believe that any new majors, including graduate majors, that are offered through Holt will continue to be under the purview of A&S.

Joan will report to Provost and to the Executive Council our concerns about the changes to the Holt Communications major. She will also raise the question of what happens if one school votes on an issue (such as student attendance) and the other school fails to hold a vote.