

2-27-2007

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee

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Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 27, 2007" (2007). *Professional Standards Committee Minutes*. Paper 94.
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Professional Standards Committee
Approved Minutes from February 27, 2007
12:30 pm CSS 222

Next Meeting: 12:30-1:30 p.m., Mar. 22, 2007 (CSS 249).

Introduction/Preliminaries

The meeting was convened at 12:30 pm in CSS 222 by the chair, Wendy Brandon. Faculty members present were: Don Griffin, Maria Ruiz, Mario D'Amato, Ron Larned, Alicia Homrich, and Paul Stephenson. Student representatives present were: Keith Rands, and Joey Betts

1. Agenda Items

A. Old Business

Approval of 2/15/07 minutes
CIE Update from Dean Edge, Paul Harris and Les Lloyd
Lecturer Position Update from Dean Edge
Technology Grant Proposals: Date for Review and Dinner

B. New Business

Timeline for Faculty Travel Policy
IRB from John Houston

2. Old Business

I. Approval of minutes (2/15/07): The minutes were approved with minor changes in phrasing.

II. CIE Update from Dean Edge, Paul Harris and Les Lloyd

Prior to discussion, M. D'Amato presented a 3-point written statement that would be read to students prior to their taking the C.I.E. The PSC approved the statement. W. Brandon asked M. D'Amato to e-mail the statement to her.

W. Brandon passed out a copy of the e-mail she sent to H. Edge and P. Harris and their corresponding replies. (D. Wellman noted that she had not received a copy and requested to be placed on the e-mail list). In summary the correspondence indicated that....

K. Sanchez in I.T. will be responsible for C.I.E. norming each semester.

With regard to reserving labs- if faculty plan to reserve lab time for students to take the CIE then faculty should encourage students to wait before taking the C.I.E. so that a lab is not tied up for only a few students to complete the form.

D. Griffin commented that an announcement, perhaps being sent with M. D'Amato's 3-point written statement, should be made to this effect.

M. D'Amato suggested that he could include that in brackets within the statement as a suggestion to faculty.

D. Wellman stated that it would be better to announce it earlier, when the dates for CIE activation are first announced each semester.

K. Rands asked if the CIE would take up class time...will professors be observing students as they take the CIE.

J. Betts replied that professors leave the room during evaluation completion.

D. Wellman said that the 3-point statement would be sent out from the Dean's office on April 16 upon activation of the CIE.

D. Griffin asked that a pre-message be sent to faculty as well and a note about the new option for faculty to make comments on their CIE results.

W. Brandon stated that she would send out a message about all of this to the full faculty and that D. Wellman could also send out a message from the Dean. W. Brandon asked about having a separate reminder at the Department Chairs meeting.

W. Brandon re-iterated a final summary of the 9 points in her e-mail and who had responsibility for each...

1. PSC would pass the 3 point statement along to L. Lloyd
2. D. Wellman would take responsibility for scheduling the early announcement of CIE activation date.
3. the ability of faculty members to make comments on the CIE forms will be included
4. question on cheating will be moved to the end of the form
5. K. Sanchez in IT will norm the forms each semester
6. H. Edge and P. Harris will establish the form for the summary report with both percentile and S.D. values
7. Department Chairs will be notified of changes by H. Edge
8. PSC will undertake the education component of the CIE
9. H. Edge will facilitate the information session about the CIE for new and adjunct faculty.

III. Lecturer Position Update from Dean Edge

M. D'Amato reported that with regard to lecturer status, in Mathematics an exception will be made. In Languages positions will be extended in Spanish as long as reviews are held and requests are made through the Dean's office. New hires will be made in I.B.

M. D'Amato emphasized that PSC will definitely need to meet with the new Dean of Faculty next year to discuss this issue.

D. Griffin stated that PSC needs to meet with the Dean and have a broader discussion with faculty. We need to understand what it means to start majors. What it means to maintain big majors and also attempt to maintain broad educational goals for our students.

M. Ruiz noted that the fact that establishing a new major will not require new hires (at the outset) is an irrelevant point as growth in the major may require new hiring in the future.

D. Griffin noted that this issue on lecturers really involves every committee on campus.

W. Brandon suggested a joint meeting of three committees PSC, Finance, and AAC to review problems with the creation of new majors.

M. Ruiz and D. Griffin both noted the "space crunch" on campus. Rollins has lost job candidates b/c of lack of space (office/lab space).

M. D'Amato noted that the college should be careful to avoid acting on a "supply and demand" model in which larger majors may be catered to at the expense of other disciplines.

M. D'Amato suggested replying to H. Edge and stating that PSC agrees with his position on Mathematics but not new hires in I.B.

K. Rands asked why aren't we doing something about the needs of students whose interests are more broadly based?

M. D'Amato commented that the college may be able to address this through admissions.

D. Griffin noted that the low turnout of faculty to interview Cornell Scholars was not a good reflection on our faculty body. He noted that there used to be a committee that was required to work with admissions. (required by ACS)

W. Brandon asked what was that committee.

D. Griffin replied Admissions and Financial aid.

W. Brandon asked how do you get a standing committee established?

D. Griffin replied that required a By-Law change.

D. Wellman stated that she guaranteed that PSC would have the support of the new incoming Dean of faculty on that point.

M. Ruiz asked to discuss the reply to H. Edge.

M. D'Amato said that instead of "disagree" we could state that before any new tenure lines are approved in IB and other large majors that a faculty wide discussion be held beforehand.

M. Ruiz noted that the shape of I.B. as it is now can't be stable. Is it reasonable to make I.B. wait while we have a faculty discussion?

D. Griffin stated that one way to cut down on students flooding into a new (large) major is to tack on new requirements. For example increasing foreign language and mathematics requirements.

M. D'Amato replied that perhaps professors from I.B. would be amenable to changes that would reduce the number of I.B. majors because of their current heavy advising load. It's in their interest to have fewer students and adjuncts.

The PSC agreed that growth in majors must be carefully considered as an unbalanced situation in which only a few majors dominate the student body will impact the breadth of education that the college can provide and adversely impact its liberal arts message.

IV. Technology Grant Proposals: Date for Review and Dinner

Tuesday April 10, 2007 at 6:30 was established for review of Technology Grants. The meeting will be held in the Presidents Dining room in the Cornell Campus Center.

3. New Business

I. Timeline for Faculty Travel Policy

Due to time constraints the PSC did not address the Faculty Travel; Policy though it was noted that the budget for faculty travel will not be increased next year.

II. IRB from John Houston

Not discussed

4. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned (1:45 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Stephenson, Recording Secretary