

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty Senate

Feb 15th, 2017

Submitted by Hyunju Chung

Present: Wilfred Major (president/Interdisciplinary Studies), Dorothy McCaughey (ENGL), Kendall Gibson (FLL), Steve Namikas (Geo&Anth), Isaiah Lavender III (ENGL), Carolyn Ware (at-large), William Saas (CMST & proxy for Bryan McCann), Hyunju Chung (COMD), Alan Baumeister (PSYC), Angeletta Gourdine (ENGL), Michael Barton (SOCL), Michael Bibler (at-large), Steven Andes (HIST), Jeff Leichman (French), Andrea Castillo (FLL), Emily Batinski (FLL), Joe Clare (POLI).

1 Open and introductions

2 Approval of minutes for November 30, 2016.

- Approved

3 Old Business

a. Update on inquiry to Dean about HSS policies on funding for graduate students

- Dean will be at our meeting on March 22nd. We can ask her questions in our next meeting
- Our questions have been forward to Dean. W. Major will meet with Dean to discuss and go over the questions raised in our meeting. Her responses to our questions will be circulated via email before our next meeting.

b. Update on HSS governance of faculty fellowships and leave

- Mark Wagner was in charge of this issue. He can't attend this term's HSS meeting.
- We need a faculty senate who can take over his role this term.
- Also awaiting draft of form from Ann Whitmer.

c. Continuing discussion on HSS bylaws and LSU Faculty Senate elections

- The initial concern: the college process of determining university senators was not consistent with LSU Senate Constitution. Thus, required HSS Senate to change bylaws.
- Main concern: senators are apportioned by departments, not "elected" college-wide.
- Among suggestions from the table: each department can appoint/select a senate and college can vote
- W. Major will request of Kevin Cope a variance allowing the selection according to the current HSS bylaws.

Approved.

d. Developing HSS course for internship credit

- C. Ware has been collecting information about internship programs in different departments.
- Internships are now managed by Olinde Career Center. What's our role on this?
- C. Ware met with Dean to talk about developing HSS courses for internship credit.

Dean is willing to help creating internship courses in departments that don't currently have it.

- C. Ware also will meet with a person from Career center to make some templates that can be used for creating an internship course in each department.
 - Dean wanted to expand the list of internship possibilities.
- e. Update on grade inflation / the role of student evaluations / DFW in reviewing faculty performance
- Dean will be in our next meeting. We need more specific and structured questions/topics to be discussed in our next meeting.
 - **Our concerns:** How student evaluation is used (how many % contributed) to the untenured faculty or lecturer's reappointment evaluation? Is it appropriate to include DFW language in **the reappointment letter**?
 - What is the clear criteria for evaluating faculty member's performance? Even if instructors follow up failing students, some still don't attend classes and contribute to course DFWs rates, which has little to do with the instructor.
 - Dean's comment from last meeting: they look at the statistics of the grade distribution of each course.
 - In fact, grade distribution of each course was suggested to be circulated in each department. But how does this data address this issue?
 - **One suggestion from the table:** each faculty can submit some statements explaining DFWs in their courses. Downside of this? lots of paperwork.
 - **Our next step:** Summarize our questions and discussion topics in a more structured way. This will be done over email before our meeting with Dean.
- f. Potential new HSS software for tracking students
Awaiting presentation by Becky Caire.
- g. Updating HSS Faculty Senate Website
W. Major hopes to focus on this after finishing term as president.

4 New business

- a. Nominations and selections for P&T Committee
- W. Major will circulate the eligibility criteria.
 - ex) All members need to be full professors and all need to be from a different department, etc

5. Adjourn: **Next meeting on March 22nd.**