Senate

College of Liberal Arts

Oct. 19, 2015

**CC 3540**

2:30-4:00

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of Agenda.

Agenda approved.

1. Approval of the minutes from September 21, 2015

Minutes approved.

1. Moderator’s Report:

* To submit proposals to the Senate, faculty and departments should use the email address: cla.senate@umb.edu.
* A task force was set up by the Senate last semester to review how other universities handle governance issues. The Senate will review the report, which will be available on Xythos before the November meeting.
* Senators should expect an increased number of proposals for the November meetings.
* The Senate and the CLA continue to make progress in creating an electronic one-form; the Dean’s council has approved the plan for the new form, and IT is assessing the costs of implementation. Once the figures have been calculated, funding will be sought.

**Questions to moderator**:

Question asked about means of assessing faculty productivity in relation to 2-2 and 3-3. Associate Dean answers: These discussions are just getting underway. A policy was drafted but is not in effect. Request made from a Senator that the Dean send the policy proposal to the Senate.

1. Dean’s Report

Associate Dean present for the Dean.

Emergency preparedness committee:

* New signs posted in all classrooms stating that we may now use 911 to reach Campus Police in emergencies. This is a change from old instructions. You can still call campus police directly. If the emergency is on or related to campus, the 911 service will forward your call to Campus Police.
* The University recommends that we let the University know when and where we will be traveling outside of the country. Its concerns involve emergency preparedness and pandemics. Several senators expressed concern over the University’s plans to require such information from faculty.
* The Dean’s office has proposed that all classes be required to have Blackboard backup to serve in place of face-to-face courses in the event of extended closures.

Comment from Senate: This policy seems to assume that all students have access to Internet and can thus participate in on-line sessions. Secondly, severe weather often interrupts power and communications in certain areas for extended amounts of time, which would disadvantage certain students if courses continue to run on-line during such shutdowns.

Reply from Assistant Dean: The policy is still being developed and will have to address these issues.

**Departmental Training for Shooter Situations**

Assistant Dean noted that faculties could request a presentation from Campus Police on how to react to an active shooter or shooter threats to campus. Those interested should contact Campus Police directly.

**Large Enrollment Courses**

* Development is also underway to support large enrollment (LE) classes, including how to work with TAs; best practice for LE classes; how to use Clickers; how to create small groups, etc. A meeting is being organized for LE instructors and their TAs. Recommendations from this meeting will go up on the new portal.
* Enrollments have increased this semester and are likely to continue to increase. We consequently expect more large enrollment courses.
* This initiative from the Dean’s office is intended to be a resource for faculty. It will not infringe on instructors’ freedom to organize and run courses.

**Title-9 Review Committee**

A Title-9 review committee is in place. Recommendation that CLA have someone on that committee, perhaps from gender studies.

**Institutional Support for distressed students and faculty**

A working group has been formed to explore ways of supporting distressed students and faculty with particular attention to establishing guidelines and limits for how students can engage faculty and vice versa. The University’s lawyers are considering the policies now.

Questions/input from Senators:

There were very few students at the student fair. Is there perhaps a disconnect between the organizers and the departments? There were hundreds of faculty present but hardly one-hundred-fifty students attended. Some colleges had their own fair in separate buildings at the same time, which made it difficult for students to consider minors and double majors. This seems not to serve the needs of new undergraduates. If these low numbers continue, faculty will be reluctant to attend.

Reply from Assistant Dean:

The event started in one place and then students split up into separate buildings. Faculty from the sciences had commented that many students never returned from their campus tours. The spring Welcome Day seemed to be more successful.

Comment from Senate: All the resources intended to support students often seem to fail to mention or emphasize that students should first see their instructors when problems with courses arise.

Question/Remark from the Senate: The University should support faculty that teach controversial subjects, particularly when students want to avoid so-called trigger material. The Title-9 group has just started to deal with this issue. Students have ombudsmen but faculty lacks support/ombudsman to voice their concerns. Faculty seem to lack support in these situations.

1. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following New courses:

* PHIL 321 Public Health Ethics: APPROVED.

Question about the lack of attendance policy. Answer: Attendance policy only needs to be specified if it will influence the grade.

Question: Why are no prerequisites specified? Answers: Departments contact enrolled students who seem unqualified to explain what the course will entail.

* SOC 333 Sociology of Migration: APPROVED.

This is an elective course developed to make use of the expertise of new faculty. Likewise, some changes in Criminal Justice offerings have created a place/need for this course. Department may have to specify prerequisites.

* ARABIC 320 Modern Arabic Literature: APPROVED

Recommendation that the department’s chair contact the Management faculty to discuss whether or not this course can fulfill any of the requirements for students in the Management.

Question/comments about the requirement: This course has extensive writing requirements; perhaps an effort should be made to inform new students, particularly freshmen, of what will be required of them in this course.

Answer: The department and instructor have taken steps to make sure that students understand the requirements and that special opportunities are given to students to improve their writing skills.

Comment from Senators: This course has good requirements for 300-level course. There is concern that the move toward large enrollment courses is diluting requirements and that faculty are being pushed to lessen requirements make assignments easier.

Another comment: The dilution of requirements/assignments is an issue that needs to be addressed. These large-enrollment courses seem to negatively influence small and medium-sized departments.

1. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following Changes to courses:

* CLS 317L Greek and Roman Historians (Cross-listing w/HIS): APPROVED.
* COM 325 Relational Communication (Number & Level): APPROVED.
* ECON 476 Internship in Economics (Change of Pre-reqs): APPROVED with understanding that recommendation be made that course description be revised to full sentences.
* JAPAN 301 Advanced Intermediate Japanese I (Title & Description): APPROVED
* JAPAN 302 Advanced Intermediate Japanese II (Title & Description): APPROVED

This seems to point toward a course starting at an intermediate level and finishing at a lower-advanced level.

* SOC 200 Racial and Ethnic Relations (Number & Level):
* SOC 230 Race, Incarceration and Deportation (Number & Level):

APPROVED BOTH, pending the rewriting of the descriptions and the review of the SEC. Comment: The descriptions are not in full sentences.

1. Motion from the MHSP Committee:

* Change of Dean’s List Requirements : APPROVED

The CLA Dean’s List requirements are lower than any other on campus. Dean requested a review. The committee looked at the distribution of GPAs for 9- and 12-credit students. Recommends a 3.5 GPA for 9-credit students who have no incompletes, seeing that many students are unable to take 12 credits per semester. These terms put CLA in the middle relative to the qualifications from other colleges and universities. If there are pressures to move up to a 12-credit requirement, response should consider that many of our students work at least 20 hours a week and would find it very difficult to maintain 12 courses each semester.

1. Discussion of Senate By-laws

Moderator was asked last year to review the by-laws, and was later informed that changes to by-laws must also be approved by CSM, since there are committees with members from both senates. Thus, each Senate must approve changes to CLA’s Senate by-laws. If CSM recommends changes, CLA will have to review it again.

Discussion approving new Centers in CLA: There was no procedure for CLA’s senate to evaluate Centers. MHSP then reviewed and made recommendations to the full senate.

1. Centers will need funding. The source of that funding needs to be considered carefully, as funding may be funneled from existing programs.
2. Should we revive a budgetary committee?
3. If we revise the budgetary committee, should it review proposals for new Centers or should the MHSP review these proposals? Comment: There are also curricular issues to handle in reviews of Centers. Comment: There have been proposals that the budgetary committee be eliminated from the by-laws of the Senate. Several Senators, however, are concerned about this and urged instead that rather than eliminating this committee we should reconstitute it, so that CLA has a means to participate in the review of new Centers and the consequent redistribution of resources. A second recommendation was made to keep this budgetary committee.

MOTION TO TABLE THIS ISSUE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

Moderator will send out another draft of proposed language for this proposal.

1. New Business

It seems that a student group may seek to record professors during class and then send any “crazy comments” to a politically affiliated news/internet site for publication.

Should a statement be included in the syllabus, namely that it is against university policy and Mass. law to record a professor without that professor’s permission? Are there steps being taken here to protect faculty from such invasions of privacy?

Senators can send their suggestions to the moderator or members of the SEC.

ADJOURNED. 4:05 pm

Minutes taken by James Dobreff, Classics