Clerk’s Committee Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2015 - DRAFT

Academic Dean’s Conference Room

Attending: Caleb Anderson (Community Senate), Zhihong Chen (Recording Clerk), Dave Dobson (Clerk), Sherry Giles (Business & Policy, and Sports Studies), Edwins Gwako (Social Sciences), Adrienne Israel (Vice President for Academic Affairs & Academic Dean), Tim Lindeman (Arts), Lisa McLeod (Humanities), Jeffrey Ray (SGA), Steve Shapiro (Natural Sciences & Mathematics and Recorder for this Meeting)

1. The committee convened and began with a moment of silence.
2. After suggesting minor modifications, the committee **approved the minutes from March 2, 2015**.
3. For discussion: Moving the September faculty meeting to Sept. 9 for FDC event.

A committee member expressed concern that changing the schedule of faculty meetings would “open the door” for numerous additional such requests. Steve will check with Kathy Adams to see if the Growth Mindset FDC event could instead be scheduled on Sept. 9, 2015.

1. For discussion: Proposal to revise English majors

What is the value of having two separate degrees when they are linked together such that the difference between the two degrees is so similar? Would students coming from a small school with a new program be at a disadvantage when competing with students from larger schools with more established programs? Would graduates with a *Creative Writing* degree who have to change fields also be at a disadvantage because their transcript said *Creative Writing* instead of *English*? Would employers or graduate schools have a concern about someone with a *Creative Writing* degree instead of an *English* degree? The committee discussed these questions at length.

The Clerk will discuss with Heather Hayton (chair of English) and Mylène Dressler the committee’s recommendation that the English Department meet with the SGA and Community Senate to discuss student concerns about this proposed change.

The Committee agreed to bring this proposal to the Faculty Meeting along with these concerns. The Clerk will inform the English Department of these concerns so that they would have time to formulate a response for the faculty meeting.

1. Review of recent events and discussions

(with an eye toward faculty governance, morale, and information distribution)

1. February 25 Faculty Forum
2. March 5 Faculty Meeting
3. Meeting with Dean Search Consultant

The Clerk reviewed the outcome of the meeting with Tom Courtice, the search consultant, and the proposed process for selecting the interim Academic Dean. Clerk’s Committee would review the “short list” of candidates and be part of the phone / video conferencing part of the search process. The Clerk has outlined this process with the faculty by email and has not yet received any significant feedback. The Clerk will work with the V.P. and Academic Dean to arrange for the Division Chairs to discuss this search at the upcoming Division meetings.

1. Weekend curricular retreat
2. Ongoing budget restructuring process

For next year, we need to plan for a four million dollar budget deficit. The faculty would benefit from having more information about this expectation so that they can understand its seriousness and can constructively address the problem in their areas.

1. Using our remaining faculty times (April 8th, open slot April 29th)

The Committee agreed to reserve the April 8, 2015 date for a forum to discuss budget reduction and creative ideas for moving forward.

1. Closing silence

Respectfully submitted by

Steven Shapiro