

Liberal Arts Council
Minutes of the Meeting of December 14, 2005
206A Coke Building, 3:00 pm

Present: Cooke, Dox, Coopersmith, Eckert, Flemming, Hoagwood, Johnson, LeBuffe, LeUnes, Marchitello, Matthews (for Berthold), McIntosh, Rich, Shandley, Wright.
Absent: Greenwald, Ives, Kinzer, Mercilliot, Poole, Urbina, Verdier
Visitor: Paul Christensen (English Dept)

I. Announcements

1. Budget Update. Dean Johnson discussed a shift in budget policy for the College regarding the funding retrieval mechanism in the case of faculty departures. The policy in recent years has been for departments to retain funding for faculty departures (after an initial one-year CLA pull-back), an arrangement enabled by “dowry” monies made available upon Dean Johnson’s initial appointment. In light of the end of dowry resources, the College has been considering possible alternatives. Considered, but ultimately rejected, was the idea of a flat tax to all departments. Also considered was a 15% CLA pull-back for all faculty departures for whatever reason. In consultation with the Executive Council, this model was modified to a 20-25% CLA pull-back for all faculty departures *except for un-tenured faculty* departures. Under this plan, departments—which will retain ½ of the salary in the first year, to be increased to 100% in the second year—will typically replace full professor vacancies with associate professor hires, and associate professor vacancies with assistant professor hires. Dean Johnson indicated that appeals to this hiring structure could be made by departments to the College. When asked if this shift in policy was understood as short-term or long-term, Dean Johnson indicated that this shift should be understood as a continuation of standard College policy that had been interrupted or suspended during the term of the dowry. Dean Johnson also stressed that *all* CLA pull-back funds will go back to departments, with no retrieved funds remaining in the Dean’s Office.

2. Interdisciplinary Programs Update: Dean Johnson briefed the Council on the work underway currently in committee to write recommendations on faculty appointments to interdisciplinary programs in the College. These recommendations will provide guidelines for faculty affiliations and reviews (among other matters). A draft recommendation should be available to the Council in January. Dean Johnson also reminded the Council that the Women’s Studies Director and committee are in the process of drafting bylaws to be used, ultimately, as a model for all interdisciplinary programs in the College. A draft copy of these bylaws will be made available to the Council as soon as the necessary drafting has been completed.

3. Differential Tuition: Dean Johnson announced the College is considering the issue of differential tuition—a plan (authorized by state legislation) that would allow universities to set their own tuition rates. Though differential tuition typically appeals to professional schools and programs (such as business and architecture), the labor-intensive nature of CLA teaching—small classes, learning communities, etc.—the argument could be made that the College should consider setting its own tuition rates in some form.

Dean Johnson identified some of the issues that would have to be addressed, including such matters as which classes and which levels should be identified for differential tuition (non-major classes, majors classes, lower-division, upper-division, etc.) that would be assessed on a per-credit hour basis. Dean Johnson indicated that by law 20% of the monies generated by differential tuition would be set aside for scholarships.

Dean Johnson indicated that a committee—composed of faculty, administrators, and students—would likely be charged to study and consider the possibility of differential tuition. The earliest possible implementation, should the College elect to pursue this option, would be Fall 2007.

4. Dean Johnson announced the appointment of LAC interim member Professor Pamela Matthews (ENGL) as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

II. Questions - There were no questions.

III. Minutes - The minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business - There was no old business.

V. New Business

Undergraduate Instruction Committee:

The Council unanimously approved two new courses: **HIST 349**: The Vietnam War/The American War and **HIST 350**: Asia during World War II.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 3:47 p.m. - Howard Marchitello, Secretary