September 14, 2015

TO: A&S Faculty

FROM: Leonidas Bachas, Dean

SUBJECT: AGENDA for College Faculty meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.
Wesley Gallery at Wesley Foundation, 1210 Stanford Drive (Across from the Lowe Art Museum)

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 6, 2015 Meeting

2. Dean's Remarks

3. Proposal for a Joint JD/MA in Law and Latin American Studies

4. Proposal for a Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

5. Proposals from the Department of Geography and Regional Studies
   - Bachelor of Science in Geography
   - Minor in Geospatial Technology

6. Voting Rights for Educator and Research Faculty

7. Online Initiatives: BGS and MPA Programs

8. Proposal to Create New Educator Faculty Lines

9. Academic Appeal Committee Report

10. Faculty Senate Report

11. Other Business

LGB/rkg
TO: College Council Members
FROM: Angel Kaifer
Senior Associate Dean

SUBJECT: MINUTES of the College Council Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.
Physics Conference Room

Lunch at 12:15 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 16, 2015 Meeting
A motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting was offered, seconded, and unanimously approved.

2. Dean’s Remarks
Senior Associate Dean Angel Kaifer substituted for Dean Bachas who was out of state on business. Dr. Kaifer noted that Dean Bachas’ meetings with the Chairs to discuss faculty evaluations and salaries have ended. He thanked the Council for their work this year, in particular Professors Michael Bernath and Aman De Sondy (2 outgoing members). He indicated that in absence of urgent matters, the May 4th meeting will likely be canceled. The Dean’s memo regarding request for faculty position searches will go out soon. He indicated that this coming year there may be fewer faculty searches with the continuation of the cluster hiring in Energy and Digital Humanities.

3. Approval of the College Standing Committee Members: Academic Appeal Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Budget and Compensation Review Committee
The College Council was presented with a list of volunteers for approval to serve on each of the standing committees noted above. After review, the College Council approved the membership for the Academic Appeal Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Budget and Compensation Review Committee.

4. University’s new Withdrawal Policy – by Assistant Dean Athena Sanders
Assistant Dean Athena Sanders talked about the University’s new withdrawal policy. This policy, which is effective April 1st, offers several advantages. It will centralize withdrawals and ensure that proper data is collected in order to analyze
why students leave, where they go, and what their issues are. Undergraduate withdrawals for fall and spring semesters are now handled by the Cane Success Center. Athena will still handle summer withdrawals. The Council requested that the policy be distributed to all faculty. It was also suggested to invite Darby Plummer to speak to the undergraduate directors at one of their scheduled meetings.

5. Discussion of the Proposed Changes to the College Bylaws – eVoting
Professor Victor Milenkovic explained that the first reading of the proposed e-Voting revealed that the proposal was a bit complicated. He noted that the document will be revisited, and simplified for discussion by the faculty in the next academic year.

Senior Associate Dean Fuller indicated that he brought some suggestions to the Faculty Senate in regard to adding a title different of educator faculty to the legislation especially for the arts and the humanities. The Faculty Senate explained that it will be a long process to make a title change to the legislation. Dean Fuller said that he will send the proposals back to the respective departments to discuss first at the departmental faculty level for their faculty approval before sending back to his office. The proposals will be forwarded again to the faculty at one of their meetings in the new academic year.

6. Approval of the Proposed Agenda for Faculty Meeting of April 14, 2015
   o Approval of the Minutes of the March 23, 2015 Special Meeting
   o Dean’s Remarks
   o Proposal for Educator Faculty Lines – by Senior Associate Dean Fuller
   o Summer Governance: MOTION – “To authorize the College Council to act on behalf of the faculty if necessary during the summer and until the first meeting of the faculty in the fall.” (action item)
   o University’s new Withdrawal Policy – by Assistant Dean Athena Sanders
   o Curriculum Committee Report – by Professor Geoff Sutcliffe
   o Faculty Senate Report - by Professor Steve Cantrell
   o Other Business

The proposed agenda for the April 14, 2015 meeting was voted, seconded and approved to be distributed to the faculty.

7. Other Business
   • April 28th a 3:30 p.m. at the Wesley Gallery – Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activities Recognition Ceremony
   • Commencement Ceremonies: Graduate Ceremony, May 7th at 4:00 p.m. all graduates. May 8th at 8:30 a.m. Undergraduate Ceremony Arts & Sciences at the Bank United Center.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.
TO: College Council Members

FROM: Leonidas Bachas
Dean

SUBJECT: MINUTES of the Special of the College Council meeting
Monday, April 22, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.
Physics Conference Room

DATE: April 24, 2015

Dean Bachas called a special meeting of the College Council to discuss the decision of the University Curriculum Committee regarding the proposal submitted by the College on the Advanced Writing and Communication Skills Requirements. After review of the recommendations of the UCC, the College Council discussed, voted and approved to send forward this amended document (see below) to the UCC.

Senior Associate Dean Stampino will make the updates and contact the Chair of the UCC, so that the Committee can take immediate action. The College proposal needs to be approved immediately so that the Advanced Writing and Communication Skills Requirements can be incorporated in time into the bulletin. It was also noted that the College may, in two years, conduct a review of the requirements.

This proposal is being forwarded to UCC for approval.

Proposal from the
College of Arts and Sciences
Concerning the Advanced Writing and Communication Skills
Faculty Senate Legislation #2014-11(B)

The College recognizes that the facility to compose in order to express thoughts, ideas, facts, and more, is the basis for all communication. Writing is the underlying element and the foundation that makes for effective communication. Thus, the College considers the ability to write cogently and clearly to be a hallmark of a liberal education, and a fundamental vehicle for participation in the life of any community. It follows that having students learn how to write and how to improve their writing is crucial, both in general terms, and as part of their disciplinary training. It also follows that the desired outcomes need to be measurable. Thus the College proposes to proceed in two distinct and mutually reinforcing ways, as
enumerated below. It is noted that students in the College are also exposed to other appropriate forms of communication throughout their coursework, as deemed appropriate to their disciplines.

College requirements:

1. Every student will be required to complete at least four writing-intensive ("W") courses beyond ENG105/106, and at least one such course must be in the student’s discipline. Courses will have the W designation only by approval from the College Curriculum Committee; no substitution or addition will be possible. (Courses that currently bear the W designation will continue to do so; they will be reviewed for approval in the academic year 2015-16.) In fall 2011, the College of Arts and Sciences faculty approved a definition of what constitutes a W course, based on best practices from the field of Rhetoric and Composition (found in Appendix A). This description will be used by the College Curriculum Committee when evaluating courses for W designation. Departments and programs that offer W-designated courses will assess the writing-related learning outcomes of those courses as part of the assessment described in (2) below.

2. The College notes that implicit in the new Advanced Writing and Communication skills requirement is an attention to Writing in the Discipline (hence the requirement for at least one W designated course in the discipline). Recognizing the variety of disciplines in the College, all departments and programs will be required to include an explicit Student Learning Outcome related to writing in their annual Program Assessment Report. Many evaluative rubrics exist for Humanities/Art, Social Sciences, and STEM disciplines, which the College will make available for departments to use or modify in order to gather direct measurements of writing-related learning outcomes.

The College continues to support the professional development of those instructors interested in integrating writing instruction in their syllabi by sponsoring a Summer Institute for faculty members, organized and facilitated by the Composition Program.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.