Arts and Sciences Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 am

245 Patterson Office Tower

Attendance: Chana Akins, Anibal Biglieri, Anna Bosch, Jeremy Crampton, David Hamilton, Mark Kornbluh, Wolfgang Korsch, Carl Lee, Betty Lorch, Ted Schatzki, and Kirsten Turner

1. Awards and Award Committees

The College has created 8 new awards to honor faculty for excellence in mentoring, research, creative teaching, etc. This will be the pilot year for the awards and selection committees need to be appointed. Associate Dean, Ted Schatzki proposed the Executive Committee review 4 of the categories of awards and the group who win the Outstanding Teaching Awards review the other four categories of awards. The group discussed several different options for reviews and selections but ultimately moved to accept the plan as proposed by Dean Schatzki. They all agreed to reconsider the committee’s composition after the pilot year.

1. Appointing Endowed Chairs

The Endowed Chairs and Professorship appointments rarely distinguish the selection process. The current process is for the Dean to with the Chairperson on a decision. They then request the approval from the Endowed Chair Appointment committee. Once approved, the recommendation and appointments are made. Recently, there has been some controversy over the appointing process. The executive committee discussed the process and solicited suggestions for the future. The group plans to discuss the topic again in the future after they have had some time to consider options.

1. The Bottleneck Report

The University supplied the College with a report indicating sections which had greater than 25% DEW rates. Although only 111 sections of the 3600 taught by A&S showed up on the report, the College was asked to respond with goals on how to decrease these numbers and increase student success. The College took this report very seriously and worked with the department chairs to produce a thoughtful, comprehensive reply. A few key topics of concern and areas in which we plan to address were 1) the science requirement for non-science majors and 2) the universities policy on grades, withdraw date, and our advisors. We were to exclude from the report national trends and student preparedness. The group had a very engaging conversation on student success, instructional approaches, and interventions during freshman year.

1. Graduate Education

The College has devoted this year to rethinking graduate education. The Deans Office is working with DGSs, Chairs, and other faculty leadership to examine how to keep A&S graduate programs competitive while maintaining the proper workloads, stipends, and instructional mix. The College plans to hold open discussion forums, symposiums, and/or speaker series. Additionally, a committee will be created to focus efforts on interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary graduate education.