

CLAS Faculty Council Minutes

Friday, January 25, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

CLAS Dean's Conference Room

Elected members present: Nora Alter, Susan DeFrance, Jean Larson, John Leavey, Carol Murphy, Ronald Randles, Samuel Stafford, Donald Stehouwer, John Yelton, Kenneth Wagener, Ann Wehmeyer, Barbara Zsembik

Ex-officio members present: Chris Snodgrass

The Dean, his staff, guests: Joe Glover,

Student members absent: no student members have been selected

Leavey opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Dean Glover outlined the current college budget situation. Since the State of Florida has a \$2 billion shortfall, we are headed for another cutback. Although unmentioned by the state legislature, when the 3.8% cut was applied in the fall, the state only delivered 24% of the expected revenue for the quarter; in December, the university received 23% of its quarterly allocation, so the university is projecting an additional 4% cutback for the coming fiscal year.

President Machen alluded to the coming cutback in his statement to the Faculty Senate where he emphasized the need to protect the undergraduate student experience and assured faculty that it would be done without layoffs.

Provost Fouke has told the college to prepare to give back approximately \$3 million (\$3,007,000) more in recurring dollars beginning July 1, 2008 in addition to the \$1 million we have already returned as part of the budget cut for this year.

Glover outlined what he called the easy-to-describe possibilities for recurring revenue return, emphasizing that easy-to-describe did not mean they would not be painful: (a) \$1.3 million in rate for unfilled line positions; (b) \$500,000 of the \$1 million in enrollment management funds; (c) \$300,000 rainy day fund for operating expenses.

Glover announced that it is highly probable that he will put in abeyance all on-going college funded searches in the college. (He is referring to \$800,000-900,000 in authorized searches.)

Enrollment management decreases will have the greatest impact on English (graduate funding in particular), Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and to a lesser extent, Romance Languages and Literature. These departments will be under pressure to pick up more teaching with existing staff.

He has released \$100,000 of this year's rainy day fund (OE). Since a substantial proportion of OE is phone charges, the college is switching to VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phone service, and the college needs to buy compatible headsets over the next 2-3 years. He anticipates net savings, though those with the Nortel system in place will see increased costs.

Glover said that he is talking with all the chairs of CLAS departments, the Finance Committee and the Faculty Council, asking all to help him prepare a plan for a \$3 million call back. He asked us to think about broad categories for cuts, e.g. should we look at programs to cut? Not on the table are the positions partially funded by private foundation or other moneys: the Rothman Chair, the Ehrlich Chair, the joint Emerging Pathogens position. Also off the table are the line positions authorized by recent legislative action.

John Leavey requested detailed budget information be sent to the council. We will discuss the budget again at the meeting on January 31.

The minutes of the November 1 meeting were approved, and the minutes of the December 10 meeting were approved as amended. We discussed rotation for current members of the faculty council. We decided to have John Leavey send to the Constitution Committee for vetting a proposal for that all current members continue for another year, with some continuing for a third year, in order to support continuity on the council.

Concern was expressed that the impending cuts would hurt the quality of the education we offer to our undergraduates. Since there was an indication that some departments might be expected to handle current levels of teaching with fewer resources, concern was expressed about changing terms and conditions of employment that may be grievable.

The meeting closed after 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Larson, Associate Chair