College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee Minutes  
April 15, 2013

Present: Sara Friedman, Micheal Berger (Chair), Robert Terrill, Joan Linton, Cynthia Bannon, Ed Hirt, and Diane Reilly.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

The Committee approved the revised minutes from last week.

Two members had attended the first of the budget meetings held by the Dean's office and reported on the meeting.

The Committee discussed a revised version of the International Studies Departmental Plan provided by Associate Dean Maria Bucur. We still had some confusion about the status of existing faculty in the program, the allocation of FTE, and proposals for future faculty hiring to cover areas of the curriculum outside the expertise of current faculty.

The Dean joined the meeting at 4:40.

The Committee asked the Dean about his sense of the new style of budget meeting. He acknowledged that they still needed to fine tune the process, but he felt that the discussion of each department was helpful and will provide an important baseline when the Dean's office makes final hiring allocation decisions. The Dean emphasized that the meetings involve the Associate Deans in the decision making process surrounding hires in a way that will help them communicate better with chairs in the future. The Dean also pointed out that failed searches and negative tenure/promotion decisions from the previous year at the department level constitute a substantial portion of new hires in any given year. There were 127 requests for new hires from across the College in this spring’s budget documents.

The Dean explained that with the exception of predetermined hires, no decisions about lines will be made until they have discussed requests from all departments. At this stage, no requests have been taken off the table, although the deans did evaluate the justifications. The Dean envisions that the decision-making process will take place in the fourth and final budget meeting. The Dean emphasized that he preferred this collective decision-making to previous practice.

The Committee discussed with the Dean the revised International Studies Departmental Plan, and pointed out places where the plan offered confusing or contradictory information about FTE allocations to the existing program and the new department. The Dean agreed that the plan needed to be precise. The Committee will send proposed revisions to Bill Rasch, the current Director of International Studies, and Associate Dean Maria Bucur.

As part of our discussion about faculty FTE allocation, members asked how the College calculates figures for students taught per FTE. The Dean pointed out that he and Scott Feikert are beginning to break down those numbers to calculate numbers of students taught by TT faculty as opposed to figures that also include NTT faculty and AI-led courses. This breakdown will give the College a clearer understanding of teaching contributions and needs across departments.
The Committee asked the Dean about his perceptions of the long-term effect of the strike. While he felt that the topics of the strike were worthy of discussion and reasonable areas of concern, the framing of the issues by strikers did not lend itself to an effective articulation of either the problems or solutions. At this point, he did not have a good sense of whether the strike would have an impact on the university because its message did not appear to resonate with a sufficient portion of the university community to generate change.

The Dean left the meeting at 5:25.

The Committee discussed the recent decision by the IU Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences that the Friends of Art Bookstore must close. The IU Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences have decided that the existence of the Friends of Art Bookstore violates the University's contract with Barnes and Noble, and have told it to close as of August 1. The Committee discussed the implications of its closure.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.
Sara Friedman, Recorder