College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee Minutes
August 31, 2015

Present: Dale McFadden (chair), Stuart Davis, Julia Fox, Vivian Halloran, Scott Michaels, Julie Van Voorhis, Nick Williams

The meeting was called to order at 4:00. The minutes from August 24 were discussed and approved.

Nick Williams provided the Committee with a summary of chairs and directors meeting that took place on August 28. In that meeting Executive Dean Larry Singell provided the chairs with an overview of the College’s budget situation and how he planned to address the projected shortfall. In short, the Dean stated that the number of faculty would need to shrink by fifty-nine, and graduate programs would also need to get smaller. The College will use metrics to reduce the number of graduate students in departments, using a combination of the number of undergraduate enrollments, the number of graduate courses offered, and graduate placement and time to degree. Split undergraduate and graduate classes will count as undergraduate classes if their undergraduate enrollments meet a minimum of ten students. Departments with low undergraduate numbers, departments with more than one-third of their courses offered at the graduate level, and those with consistently low placement numbers and long time to degree will need to develop a two-year plan to address this imbalance. This plan will be due on February 15, 2016.

The rest of the Chairs and Directors meeting was devoted to discussing the College’s plans for 21st Century Liberal Arts curriculum. The College is soliciting course proposals for new courses that are more experimental and have the potential to generate high enrollments. Town hall meetings have been scheduled to share these initiatives with faculty, and many of the proposals will be due on September 30.

Eduardo Brondizio from the Department of Anthropology joined the meeting at 4:25 to discuss the background for the Anthropological Center for Training and Research on Global and Environmental Change (ACT) being renamed the Center for the Analysis for Social and Ecological Landscapes (CASEL). Brondizio explained that since 1990 ACT had been housed in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR), but due to budgetary pressures and changes in the community participating in the Center, it had become more College oriented. The Center is in the process of transitioning from OVPR (which was planning to close the Center) into the College, and the name change reflects the shifting nature of the Center’s research focus and the fuller participation of the Department of Geography. Brondizio noted that there were still unresolved issues going forward, such as budgetary support for the Center and how to integrate teaching into a previously research-focused unit. Brondizio does not foresee the
name change posing difficulty in obtaining grants or maintaining its visibility in the academic community, although several international agreements signed under the old name will require updating. Eduardo Brondizio left the meeting at 4:45. The CPC supports the name change.

On the request of Executive Dean Larry Singell and Associate Executive Dean Jean Robinson, the CPC began discussion of a policy regarding the evaluation for promotion and reappointment of non-tenure track (NTT) faculty that focuses on excellence in teaching. Issues raised by the CPC in its discussion included to which categories of NTT faculty the policy would apply, what the criteria for assessing excellence should be, the roles of departments in determining these criteria and evaluating their NTT faculty, and protections for NTT faculty. The Committee plans to invite Dean Robinson to a future meeting to discuss these issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Julie Van Voorhis, recorder