

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ASSEMBLY
Meeting, September 23, 2003, 3:30 p.m.
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Minutes

Attendance

Present: Anderson, Baillargeon, D. Berven, K. Berven, Binkert, Bull, Downing, Grossman, Macauley, Miller, Osthaus, Papazian, Rosenthal, Roth, Wood, Zeng.

Absent: Breidenbach, Eberwein, Kosow, Lilliston, Meehan, Mitchell, Moran, M. Piskulich, Rieger, Rigstad, Schochetman, Schweitzer, Stamps, Tsui, Wendell.

Visiting: P. Piskulich, Elections Committee

Call to Order: 3:40 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Moved by Grossman, seconded by Anderson, to accept the minutes of March 18, 2003, as submitted, unanimously approved.

Reappointment of Secretary and Parliamentarian: Grossman will continue as parliamentarian. Wood will substitute for Andersen as secretary during the fall term, while Andersen is on sabbatical.

Approval of Committee Appointments:

Recommended members for the Graduate Studies Committee, 2003-05: Jackie Wiggins, MTD, Humanities; Keith Berven, Biological Sciences, Mathematics/Science; John Bohte, Political Science, Social Sciences. Chris Clason will chair the committee.

Moved by Binkert, seconded by Anderson to approve the appointments, unanimously agreed.

For the Committee on Instruction, 2003-05: Thomas Discenna, RCJ, at large; Michael Mitchell, MTD, at large; Cynthia Schellenbach, Psychology, Social Sciences. Replacement, 2003-04: Ferman Chavez, Chemistry, Mathematics/Science. Continuing members: Karen Miller, 2002-04, History, Humanities; Jude Nixon, English, Language/Literature. Miller will chair the committee for 2003-04.

Moved by Anderson, seconded by Bull, to approve the appointments. Discussion: Grossman inquired whether Nixon, as the head of the Honors College, is still eligible to serve on a College of Arts and Sciences committee. Papazian confirmed that the constitution of the College does allow any non-bargaining unit faculty member with a full-time faculty appointment in the College to serve on any standing committees in the College, with the exception of CAP."

Election for the Executive Committee

Dean Downing welcomed Pat Piskulich, noted that he will be resigning from the Elections Committee next semester when he goes on sabbatical, and thanked him for his many years of service. Results of election: Eberwein was elected to represent Languages and Literatures, 2003-05, and Meehan in the Social Sciences position for 2003-05. The election for the one-year replacement in Mathematics/Sciences resulted in a tie between Grossman and Berven, as did the run-off ballot. A scientifically conducted and rigorously verified coin-toss selected Berven.

Informational Items

Dean Downing reviewed the information about the budget that President Russi presented in his address on September 18. The last time the dean discussed the budget situation with the College, we were facing a 10% reduction in funding from the state. The College had been asked to target \$1.1 million in budget cuts. We succeeded in finding \$946,000 in reductions, largely from faculty positions vacated by retirements or resignations. Since then, however, the House Higher Education Committee of the State Legislature, and the State Senate, recommended that the institutions that had received lower state funding in previous years should not be subjected to the same percentage of cuts as those at the higher level. Therefore, the state restored \$1.9 million of our funding, although the total we received was still \$6.2 million lower than last year. The Board met to discuss how best to distribute the \$1.9 million. Governor Granholm has expressed her intention that the money should go back to the students. We will return this money to them both directly, in the form of a 1.4% rollback of the tuition increase, and indirectly, by restoring faculty lines. Provost Moudgil and President Russi are engaged in discussions about how much money will be earmarked for the latter. At the moment, the university is committed to restoring \$856,000 (to be distributed among the various schools and colleges), but we hope the final figure may be higher. The dean notes that \$865,000 is lower than the amount of money cut from the CAS budget alone. Final decisions about how to allot the money will await information from the Provost and President.

Re the status of the STEP programs, meetings were held over the summer. Deans Downing and Otto have met since then to discuss this subject further. The situation is still under discussion.

Good and Welfare:

Miller inquired how many sections had been closed by the first day of class. Macauley reported that 37 had been filled to capacity. Miller asked rhetorically how this squared with the university's decision to freeze hiring.

There being no further questions, comments or injustices to deplore, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Wood, September 23, 2003.