

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Assembly Meeting  
Minutes February 17, 2009  
Oakland Center Rooms 128-130**

**Members present:** Getnet Bekele, Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Barbara Mabee, Debra McGinnis, Fay Hansen, Henri Gooren, Roger Larocca, Fritz McDonald, Lakshmi Raman, Jude Nixon, Lori Ostergaard, Chris Clason, Dean Purcell, Jerrold Grossman, Nesson Kerrigan, Anna Spagnuolo, George Stoffan, Susan Evans, Andrea Eis, Jacob Cayanus

**Members Absent:** Arik Dvir, Brian Connery, Natalie Cole, Lisa Levinson, Evgeniy Khain, Darrell Schmidt, Anna Spagnuolo, Karen Miller, Shuishan Yu, Martha Zingo

**Ex-Officio present:** Michelle Piskulich, Kathy Moore, Ron Sudol

**Guest:** Susan Hawkins (English)

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M. by Dean Ron Sudol.

**2. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting were approved.

The minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting were approved.

**3. Proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies**

Andrea Eis (Art and Art History) and Susan Hawkins (English) were present to answer questions about the new B.A. in Film Studies, and they acknowledged Kyle Edwards and Joshua Yumibe who were also instrumental in the preparation of the proposal. Andrea Eis expressed her thanks to all those who had contributed to putting the proposal together. She explained that this B.A. is built on a history in which film studies was previously a concentration. There was a great interest by students in having a Film Studies major. The major as it is proposed will have two tracks: Critical Studies (track one now) and Digital Film Production (track two later). It is not practical at this point for the Digital Film Production track to be put into effect.

Dear Sudol said that he would like to create an Ad Hoc task force to look into the possibility of a film production program at Oakland University because he has been contacted by potential new film studios in Pontiac and Detroit about film studies programs in the CAS.

Jerrold Grossman (Mathematics) asked if it could be a problem that there are no senior faculty members in film studies at this time, so that the program would be in the hands of junior faculty. Susan Hawkins said that this is not a problem because the junior faculty are all for it. Jude Nixon (Honors College) said that new faculty members are interested in a rigorous film program, and there is a long history in the English Department of serious film studies because of former English faculty member Bob Eberwein's work and

influence. So the major would be in good hands. Dean Sudol agreed that the new faculty members are extremely qualified to handle the major.

Jerrold Grossman asked whether, if the CAS moves to approve the new program, will there be support for additional faculty lines. Dean Sudol replied affirmatively.

Dikka Berven asked what is the connection between English and Art History with regard to the new major. Susan Hawkins said that currently, the film faculty members are housed in the English Department. Andrea Eis, in Studio Art, has been active in the film concentration for years and also serves as the Co-Director of the Film Concentration.

Kathy Moore (Associate Dean) asked about the budget concerning clerical employees for 19/hrs per week who would be drawing full benefits. Was it the intention for these employees to be casual employees? Andrea Eis said yes.

Jerrold Grossman asked if there were a sense of urgency about getting the proposal through channels, and would it be able to go to the University Senate this year? Dean Sudol indicated that it would be excellent if the process could be done by the end of the year 2008/09.

Jerrold Grossman subsequently made a motion to waive the second reading of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Dean Purcell, and voted unanimously by the Assembly members.

#### **4. College Updates**

- Dean Ron Sudol announced that Associate Dean Michelle Piskulich had been appointed to a new position as Associate Provost of the university. He wished her good luck in her new job, and indicated that the College was working on a plan to get her position replaced as soon as possible. For the immediate future, she will be in both Wilson Hall and Varner Hall. Dean Purcell (Psychology) asked if the interim person had been identified yet. Dean Sudol said that there is a proposal for Robbie Stewart (Psychology) to take the position. Dean Sudol indicated that there is an urgent need to replace Michelle Piskulich and so her replacement has to be found as soon as possible. Dean Purcell expressed his concern about the speed of the process.
- Kathy Moore reported that the Master of Arts in Communications has been through the Grad Council and will be at the Assembly for the next meeting.
- Dean Sudol indicated that the proposal for the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies will also be coming soon to the Assembly.

#### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven