

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
Tuesday, September 30, 2008
Oakland Center, Oakland Room**

MINUTES

Members present: Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Christopher Clason, Brian Connery, Andrea Eis, Susan Evans, Henri Gooren, Jerrold Grossman, Nesson Kerrigan, Evgeniy Khain, Roger Larocca, Lisa Levinson, Barbara Mabee, Jay Meehan, Fritz McDonald, Karen Miller, Jude Nixon, Lori Ostergaard, Lakshmi Raman, Darrell Schmidt, Anna Spagnuolo, Richard Stamps, George Stoffan, Jeff Youngquist

Ex-Officio present: Michelle Piskulich, Ron Sudol

Guests present: Sandy Dykstra, Steve Meyer, Jay Meehan, Lisa Dalton

1. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

2. Appointment of Secretary, Dikka Berven, and Parliamentarian, Jerrold Grossman

Motion was carried to approve Dikka Berven as CAS Secretary and Jerrold Grossman as CAS Parliamentarian for 2008/2009.

3. CAS Executive Committee Election (three vacancies)

Language/Literature 2008-2010—*Chris Clason, Modern Languages and Literatures*
Social Sciences—*Richard Stamps, Sociology and Anthropology*
At Large 2008-2010—*Andrea Eis, Art and Art History*

Continuing members;

Keith Berven, *Biological Sciences* (Mathematics/Science)

George Stoffan, *Music, Theatre and Dance* (Humanities)

**4. Approval of Recommended Members for Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)
2008-2010**

Kathy Battles, *Communication and Journalism* (At Large)

Jeffrey Insko, *English* (Language and Literature)

Rob Kushler, *Mathematics and Statistics* (At Large)

Approval of Chair for Graduate Studies Committee: Rob Kushler

**5. Approval of Recommended Members for the Committee on Instruction (COI)
2008-2010**

Anne Hitt, *Biological Sciences* (Mathematics/Science)

Don Matthews, *History* (At Large)

Fritz McDonald, *Philosophy* (Humanities)

Continuing members:

Stephen Filler, *Modern Languages and Literatures* (Language and Literature)

Niels Herold, *English* (At Large)

Cindy Sifonis, *Psychology* (Social Science)

Approval of Chair for Committee on Instruction: Niels Herold

6. Approval of Recommended Members of the Elections Committee 2008-2011

Abdi Kusow, Sociology and Anthropology (Social Science)

Yin Zheng, Music, Theatre and Dance (Humanities) (Ms. Zheng to serve in Winter 2009 only during Alice Horning's sabbatical)

Continuing members:

Alice Horning, *Writing and Rhetoric* 2006-2009 (Humanities)

Wen Zhang, *Mathematics and Statistics* 2007-2010 (Mathematics/Science)

Approval of Chair for Elections Committee: Wen Zhang

7. CAS Theme/Ad Hoc Committee

Associate Dean Michelle Piskulich announced next year's CAS theme of "Religion and Society." The theme committee will need to come up with themes for the next few years. She called for volunteers for the committee, and asked CAS members to go back to their departments and encourage their colleagues to enlist. She pointed out that this is an ideal opportunity to interact with members of other departments within the College. The charge of the committee includes calling for proposals and awarding money for the proposals. She was happy to announce that there is actually money available for this purpose.

8. CAS Distribution Requirements/Ad Hoc Committee

Dean Ron Sudol indicated that the Executive Committee has discussed the possibility of changing the name of the distribution requirement, as well as the number of credits involved. An ad hoc committee needs to be formed. He suggested that it is possible that four courses may be more than needed for this requirement. He indicated that whatever recommendation is made should be easy to accomplish and should fit together with the General Education requirements. Chief Advisor Lorin Wright and Associate Dean Michelle Piskulich will be working with the committee.

9. College Update

Dean Sudol announced that there are now two new Assistant Deans in the CAS: Steve Meyer and Sandra Dykstra, who are replacing Tom Kirchner and Jan Elvekrog, respectively.

Dean Sudol pointed out that the new Department of Writing and Rhetoric is the first new department since 1980. Karen Miller asked if the CAS Assembly is going to discuss how new programs in the new department will be dovetailed with other programs in the CAS. Dean Sudol explained that the only new program so far is the Writing Program which was discussed and approved at the February 19, 2008, CAS Assembly meeting. The program will renovate freshman composition courses in order to make the first year experience better. Also, there will be business and technical writing for which there is a new faculty member. The department will work closely with the Writing Center, and will make every effort to incorporate writing across the curriculum in the most effective manner possible.

Karen Miller said that when there is a new department, there should be an opportunity for other departments to discuss how the new department can work cooperatively with them. Dean Sudol pointed out that this new department is really a division of another department (the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism) into two departments, and not a new department, *per se*. Dean Sudol gave a history of the background of the split, and indicated that the writing program at OU has historically been a separate entity, not part of English, for example. In fact, originally, it was not even in the College, but eventually moved into the College.

Richard Stamps asked about tenure reviews, and whether the criteria would be ready for the first faculty members going through review in the new department. Dean Sudol said that the documents from RCJ would be revised and used. Karen Miller asked if these documents would be through approvals by next year when the new faculty are going through their reviews. Lori Ostergaard indicated that they would be.

Dean Sudol said that two departments (English and Rhetoric) will be moving to O'Dowd Hall very soon, possibly before the end of the year. The vacant area in Wilson Hall will become offices for OU administrators. Barbara Mabee asked if the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures would be moving as well. Associate Dean Piskulich said there were no firm plans for this move yet. She said that there will be new furniture for the people who move into O'Dowd. Keith Berven asked where the old furniture from Wilson Hall will be going, and mentioned that some of that furniture is actually newer than furniture in Dodge Hall, and could possibly be recycled. Associate Dean Piskulich said that the furniture will go to the barn, and it is her understanding that if anyone wants anything, it would not be a problem.

Dean Sudol announced that the next meeting of the CAS Assembly would be the Open Meeting. He would like suggestions from CAS members for topics to cover in his presentation. Among other topics would be three or four new programs in the pipeline this year. He would also like to find a structure to deal effectively with interdisciplinary programs within the college (for instance, Judaic Studies, Islamic Studies, Women's Studies). We need more of these programs.

Dean Sudol would like the College this year to focus on the Strategic Plan aspect of creativity and creative thinking for CAS majors.

10. Good and Welfare

Richard Stamps updated the Assembly on the Social Work Program adopted two years ago. Enrollments in the program are up to 104, well ahead of projections. Part of this program involves MSU. The program provides an opportunity for OU graduates in

Sociology and Anthropology to complete in one year a Master's in Social Work from MSU on our campus. He thanked all those who worked so hard to develop this great program. There will be 22 graduates in 2009 ready to start the MSW Program. MSU will pay OU for space to offer their program on our campus. This temporary agreement will last until we develop our own MSW degree program within 3-5 years. Keith Berven asked if other students besides OU Sociology and Anthropology graduates would be able to take advantage of this program. Jay Meehan responded yes, other students can, but their students will be the primary focus. Karen Miller asked if this program might be an impediment to the MA in Sociology. Jay Meehan said that it would not—in fact, it will help them to gear up programmatically. It will involve 10 courses and one online course. Keith Berven asked if the program involved 36 credits. Jay Meehan said that it would be 36 credits in a program running through the summer, fall and winter—so it is a big advantage to be able to do the program in one year instead of the usual two.

Barbara Mabee brought up the difficulty she has had making flight arrangements for a conference she is attending, and advised CAS members against using Cheap Flights.com.

Dean Sudol pointed out that caps have been raised by \$100 for faculty travel this year.

Jerry Grossman asked about position requests. Dean Sudol said that the departments have already been informed as to whether they have positions this year. Karen Miller asked if there would be a second phase. Dean Sudol said there may possibly be a second phase, but most positions have now been announced.

Richard Stamps expressed concern about the ever-earlier request to get the teaching schedule done for future semesters, and indicated that it is not always possible to decide if certain courses will be taught too far in advance.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven