

College of Arts and Sciences
Chair's Council
November 19, 2019

Present: Ballard, Berchild, Brown, Scott Buchanan, Stan Buchanan, Cavanaugh, Clark, Fischer, Glende, Hall, Hantzis, Hill, Inlow, Israel, Kruger, Latimer, Olsen, Perrin, Rider, Sheets, Tucker, Woods

Absent: Selman, Seung, Stofferahn, Yousif

I. Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2019 – Approved as submitted with two abstentions.

II. Announcements (Chris O.)

- Chris O. reported for Bassam Y. that the Biennial Review is done for another year. It seemed to flow better this year but please send your suggestions for next year to Bassam Y., and we will pass them on to Susan P.
- Chris O. reported that Myla W. will send back the Honors money from this fall.
- No update on searches. No capital equipment budget for this year either.
- The new admissions deposit gets collected on December 1st.

III. Spring 2020 Career Readiness and Networking Nights (Chris F.)

- Chris F. said that our first Humanities Night went well, overall. We learned a lot from this year's event and look forward to next year.
- Chris F. stated that looking ahead to Career Readiness and Networking for next year, we are considering:
 - An Internship panel in the spring semester.
 - Partnering with the College of Business for an early March panel on Careers in Sustainability.
 - One or two panels geared toward seniors with topics of negotiating salaries, HR benefits, loan payments and forgiveness.
 - A general panel on the topic of applying to graduate school.
- Chris F. mentioned that the Ascend group from Indianapolis is willing to come to campus (with enough lead time – figure several months) to hold mock interviews for junior/senior students.

IV. Alumni Mentors

- Chris O. mentioned that we have more mentors coming on all of the time. We want to make sure we keep it fresh and that our students engage with the mentors. Consider using a gateway sophomore/junior courses and ask them to alumni mentors in their field, maybe as an alternative to a quiz.
 - DeVere W. cautioned that making an assignment because the student will likely say that they have been assigned to reach out to a mentor and that will not be the impression we want to give our mentors.
 - Debra I. asked how many mentors are needed from the departments. Chris O. responded that 3-4 mentors minimum per department is ideal. Chris O. doesn't invite a mentor that he hasn't cleared with the department chairperson first. We need a short biography, a picture and an active email.
 - After the holidays, Chris O. is going to communicate with the mentors about Days of Giving and ask their help to promote ISU.
 - Darlene H. suggested an Alumni Mentor virtual night and skype people in. We would also like to have our students meet mentors at Homecoming.
 - Chris O. mentioned inviting mentors to the Honors Celebration this spring.

- Debra I. asked about the status of the Student Advisory Group because one of their current alumni mentors mentioned that she gained a CAS identity by serving with the group. Chris O. responded that he plans to meet with the committee again in the spring.
- Contact Chris F. with Alumni Mentor information and questions.

V. Distance Classes & Distance Students, registration (Dennis B.)

- A charge for all of the colleges from the Provost's Office is to monitor the enrollment in distance classes
- Dennis B. stated that there seemed to be a trend that seniors expect that distance classes will be open to them so they have flexibility in scheduling.
- This fall, before the semester began, Dennis B. had to add three new distance courses to the schedule because the existing distance classes were enrolling on-campus students. We must keep the distance classes open for distance students because they have no other options.
 - Discussion points:
 - Darlene H. said that there has been mixed messages for years about how we handle distance learning classes. Students don't realize that there are distance only cohorts, they only hear from friends who took a distance class in the summer.
 - Darlene H. noted that there is a particular college on campus who is doing overrides and allowing distance enrollment without notifying the department.
 - DeVere W. recalled when there were no classrooms available to add a class so distance was the only option to meet the needs of our students.
 - The chairpersons asked for a clear statement from the College about how best to handle distance learning courses and reinforces the importance for chairpersons to maintain authority for over rides.

VI. Graduation Plans: PT, Distance, Transfer students

- Chris O. mentioned that the deans have been asked to think about something different than the current 4-year graduation plan that is based on freshman coming to campus with no credits because that is no longer the case.

VII. Hybrid programs; non-traditional class schedules

- Students are seemingly less satisfied with entirely online programs but they like the flexibility they provide, but they would like to still take classes on campus.
- Chris O. wondered about a 7-8 week class with a bulk on a traditional schedule but with some online as well.
 - DeVere W. commented that most of the non-traditional choose distance because they have jobs and families and can't come to campus so a hybrid doesn't work.
 - Dennis B. said that some graduate programs are primarily distance, but they have a 2-week seminar for the summer and it seems to go well.

VIII. Your Items

- Chris O. mentioned the this year's Community Semester will be much smaller with just 2-3 events, most definitely including Night in the Museum. Contact Chris O. with copy to Nancy H. if your department is interested in hosting an event.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10