

Council of Department Heads
Minutes
April 27, 2010

Members present: Bob Bauer (Psychology & Counseling), Jim Baxter (Chemistry), Michael Capece (Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, and Marriage and Family Therapy), Ed Chatelain (Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences), Fred Downing (Philosophy & Religion), Robert Gannon (Biology), Phyllis Holland (Management), Don Leech (Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology), Reynaldo Martinez, Jr. (Adult & Career Education), Blake Pearce (Art), Jim Peterson (Political Science), Mylan Redfern (Math and Computer Science), Paul Riggs (History), James Shrader (Music), Mark Smith (English), Barbara Stanley (Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education), Len Weld (Accounting and Finance).

Guests: Dr. Patrick Schloss, Dr. Phil Gunter, and Honey Coppage.

Council Chairperson Rey Martinez called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of the March 2010 CDH meeting were then considered and approved on a Bauer/Weld motion.

President Schloss addressed the group:

- The university's SACS review was outstanding.
- He maintains an open-door policy.
- The university is moving toward an increasingly tenurable faculty.
- One-thousand new students are expected this fall.
- Thirty-five new faculty are expected.
- Eighteen new faculty positions have been released.
 - Will consider releasing more in a few weeks when the fall enrollment numbers become clear.
- The university's enrollment "bubble" is in the sophomore class. This situation creates a need for more upper-division classes in the next two years.
- If necessary, new positions can be "mocked" as temporary to be later converted to tenure-track.
- Departments may hire at the associate or full professor level.
- New hires' starting salary will be referenced to the CUPA average.
 - There may be aberrations in the CUPA averages. Exceptions can be made for strong hires. Kristina Cragg can provide CUPA numbers.
- Maintaining "lecturer" positions is appropriate for departments with high service loads.
- The university is waiting for approval to give merit raises.
- The university can expect \$5 million in capital improvements in the next year.

Provost Gunter added his remarks:

- Department heads to meet with their deans to get new positions.
- Several VSU athletic teams could be playing in tournaments during finals' week. Faculty impacted by athletes' absences have been contacted.

Honey Copping addressed the group:

- Faculty contracts will be released in mid-June.
- There will be four separate pay dates for summer faculty.

The council elected officers for the upcoming academic year. Rey Martinez was reelected president; Leonard Weld was elected vice-president; Vicki Soady was elected secretary.

Representatives to university committees made reports:

Promotion and Tenure

- The committee is involved in a two-stage process:
 - developing university-wide promotion and tenure procedures;
 - developing a criteria for promotion and tenure.
- The committee is not interested in specific criteria but making recommendations as to the types of evidence to make informed P/T judgments.
- The committee hopes to make its recommendations to the university in fall semester.

Planning/Budget

- Enrollment is expected to increase between 6 to 10 percent in the fall.

Core Curriculum

- The committee is still trying to finalize the core.

Facilities

- Renovation and instructional setting pools have been ranked. Information is on the web.

Chair Martinez announced that he may call a meeting in May. He adjourned the meeting at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Smith