MINUTES
Meeting of the Faculty
September 27, 2011, 3 pm, Levis Faculty Center 3rd Floor

Dean Watkins called the meeting to order at 3pm. Approximately 48 faculty were in attendance. The minutes from the April 14, 2011 meeting were approved. Dean Watkins announced that Professor Anna-Maria Marshall was appointed as the Parliamentarian. Professor Alexander Scheeline, Department of Chemistry was unanimously approved as the LAS Secretary to the Faculty. Dean Watkins presented the Report of the Committee on Committees- updates since Spring 2011 Meeting (see attachment). The nomination and election of members of the Committee on Committees were approved (see attachment).

Dean Watkins presented a State of the College update. Our improved financial health allows faculty rebuilding in key areas, and potential to invest in initiatives. For FY12 LAS has a $1.6 million surplus. We ended FY 11 with a positive cash balance, the number of employees is down due to attrition in recent years, and our overall budget is larger thanks to additional funds received from the Provost Office. We did pay $1.3 million through the voluntary retirement program, but still ended with a positive balance.

Faculty hiring update: The number of faculty in LAS has been decreasing since 2007, from around 700 to 610 faculty. For 2011-2012, 42 faculty searches were approved by the Strategic Advisory Team. The Strategic Excellence Initiative is being used to move Illinois forward on the national stage through a more focused program across campus. LAS has 5 searches approved through this program.

The Graduate College Doctoral Review lists 6 LAS PhD programs as excellent (out of 9 rated excellent on our campus). We may not be able to see the data collected from the Graduate College, just anecdotal comments, but the overall impression was favorable.

In regards to our undergraduate students, we have approximately 170 more freshman than anticipated with more non-resident students than in the past.

LAS Online update: we have a lot of interest and are working on the proposals. Around 1500 students were in LAS online this summer. There is a plan in place for revenues to come back to units. The student feedback has been positive.

The Lincoln Hall Undergraduate Scholarship Effort has currently raised $3.5 million. Our goal is $10 million.

We are working on many facility updates. David Kinley Hall is almost done. Natural History Building will be worked on, but we do not know the scale of the project yet. The campus has an initiative for improving the buildings used heavily for undergraduate education- this includes Burrill Hall Library, Chem Annex, and Davenport Hall.
The LAS Faculty Input Team is considering the following questions: What actions, taken now, will enable the vibrancy, success and influence of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 20 years from now? What do you want Illinois/Liberal Arts and Sciences to be, and how do you contribute to those aims? What are areas of concern for Liberal Arts and Sciences, in the current Illinois, national, and international contexts?

Other ad hoc committees in LAS are the Faculty Joint Appointments, LAS Online Vision and Direction, Facilities Master Plan Project, and the Strategic Advisory Team. (See attachment for the entire power point presentation).

Dean Watkins asked if there were any questions.
Question: Does tuition money come back to the department for the teaching of their Master’s students?

Answer: A vast majority of graduate students do not pay tuition. If your program is not self-supporting, some tuition money comes back to the college in the general budget. LAS can look into providing money from grad tuition to departments, but the money is not a significant amount in the overall budget. Also, units should decide if the graduate program is for academic investment or a revenue stream. What types of students are in the program?