Minutes
Meeting of the Faculty
November 4, 2013, 2:30 pm, 1092 Lincoln Hall

Interim Dean Brian H. Ross called the meeting to order at 2:33pm. Approximately 30 faculty were in attendance. The minutes from the April 24, 2013 meeting were approved. Dean Ross announced that Anna-Maria Marshall was appointed the Parliamentarian. The Executive Committee submitted Professor James Barrett as the Secretary of the Faculty. No other nominations were presented and the faculty unanimously approved the appointment. The handout listed the Report of the Committee on Committees- updates since Spring 2013 Meeting. The faculty listed as additions to Standing committees were approved unanimously.

Dean Ross began the discussion of the proposals to merge French and Italian

- Transfer of Italian studies faculty, staff, and programs from Department Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French
- Rename the Department of French to Department of French and Italian
- Rename the Department Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to Department Spanish and Portuguese

He noted that this transfer includes the faculty, staff and programs. The proposals provide a strong justification for this move, including a common intellectual frameworks and future collaborations. The proposals have been discussed at many levels within the College. No questions were asked. All 3 proposals were unanimously approved.

Dean Ross began the discussion of the proposed revision to LAS Policies Approved by the Faculty- Executive Committee Action on Courses and Curricula Proposals. He explained that the policy has not been updated in over 20 years and needed updating in light of current practices. In the past when quarterly reports were issued, the catalog was printed (and updated) once every two years. Now, campus updates the course catalog and programs of study each semester, so a quarterly report really is no longer needed. In addition, the College posts all courses and curricula on the LAS web site once they are submitted and the College updates the report as proposals make their way through various levels of review.

While this means that departments can no longer formally respond to the quarterly reports, everyone can see what courses and programs have been submitted to the Courses and Curriculum committee, whose faculty membership is representative of the college. The committee also makes a concerted effort to review new courses and programs for any potential overlap with other units. The LAS Executive Committee has review and approved
this policy and now ask the faculty to review and vote. No questions were asked. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Dean Ross presented an overview of LAS College News. LAS welcomed 40 new faculty in the last year, an FTE increase of 13. This year, 52 searches were authorized, part of our strategic rebuilding.

The LAS Freshman Class in 2013 is larger than last year (2012- 1905; 2013-2214). Two changes in admissions strategy were mentioned: 1. We are able to put caps on our high enrollment majors, so please let us know if you would like to begin that discussion. 2. We are sending targeted messages to applicants regarding under represented majors. Associate Dean Barbara Hancin-Bhatt encouraged faculty to participate in the LAS Open House events. She will be sending out an RFP soon for units to showcase their majors/Departments at the open house. Professor Marshak asked why more students were admitted in LAS this year. Associate Dean Hancin-Bhatt replied that our recruitment efforts last year possibly attributed to the increase in enrollments. Also, last year more international students offers were made (but they have a low acceptance rate). She added that first generation numbers have gone up since last year and we do have programs that target underrepresented groups (first generation students are part of that group) so this could have added to our increase in enrollments. Someone asked the % of in-state and out-of-state student enrollments for freshman- Associate Dean Hancin-Bhatt replied that new freshmen out-of-state enrollments count for 9.6% of the total. For transfer students that number is 3.3%. Someone asked what majors international students are going into. Associate Dean Hancin-Bhatt replied that many go into Economics and Math. A majority of in-state students go into Humanities fields.

Dean Ross presented a list of College goals and programs to transform undergraduate learning experience:
Top 10 for large enrollment first-year classes
Online courses, certificates, Masters, MOOCs
Teaching Academy workshops
Enhance diversity and access-scholarships, retention
Promote interdisciplinary, double majors, minors
Expand co-curricular and integrative learning experiences internships, research, integrate international
Student Affairs new hires: International, career services areas

The College also has goals to advance faculty research and support:
Strategic hiring in core areas, interdisciplinary, VFE clusters
Efforts to improve compensation, retention, promotion
  Salary support from campus
  Centennial, Conrad professorships
  Faculty development – Provost office and the college (headed by Interim Associate Dean Curtis Perry)
Increase minority hiring – TOPs, Post-docs
Support of program and external research effort
The College is working on improving communications. Our Director of Communications and Marketing Sue Johnson has been working during the past year on many initiatives. Please send her any major announcements so she can include them in our newsletter, website, and other communications.

We still need to generate additional revenue to fund strategic investments. All three campuses have a new Vice Chancellor for Advancement. We expect to see advances in these efforts over the next year. LAS has many buildings on the renovation list including Natural History Building, Chem Annex, and Altgeld/Illini Hall.

Dean Ross informed the faculty that we have a balanced budget for FY13 and we have a small surplus. A majority of our budget funds salaries. We are well positioned for FY 14, with further rebuilding efforts despite an increase in faculty numbers and a decrease in tuition funds due to a decrease in IUs and majors.

A discussion begin on IUs and the budget. Over the past 5 years LAS has had a steady decline in majors. Engineering had an increase in majors this past year.

Pat Hoey, Director of Budget and Resource Planning explained that in recent years, campus has increased the budget allocation related to incremental undergrad IUs and enrollments (increases and decreases in IUs and enrollment counts have been assigned a higher budgetary value). LAS undergrad enrollment and IUs declined last year; because of the increased budgetary value assigned to these changes, LAS’s budget loss due to these declines was significantly higher than it would have been otherwise.

LAS’s budget share of IU and enrollment allocations is less than what it would be if all IUs and enrollments were weighted equally.

The budget process is complex and sometimes difficult to rationalize; LAS was penalized heavily due to the enrollment and IU declines, but LAS has benefitted from other campus budget decisions (e.g., extra salary funds assigned in the 2014 budget, lower budget reduction rates in recent years compared to other colleges).

Professor Bailey stated that we may want to coordinate an effort to reach the Division of General Studies students. Associate Dean Hancin-Bhatt mentioned that last fall 600 Division of General Studies students entered LAS. We continue to find ways to engage these students.

Dean Ross noted that the faculty should ask the Provost about the upcoming Dean search. He mentioned that this is the 100 year anniversary of LAS. We will be celebrating in many ways over this year.

Dean Ross announced that the Provost Office will begin Provost Program Reviews. The goal is to review each unit every 8 years. This year 3 LAS units will be reviewed-Microbiology this spring. The nuts and bolts of the review are done by the College. We hope to provide an 8 month lead time for reviewed units to prepare.
Dean Ross introduced the Dean’s Fellows- Anna Stenport, Karen Flynn, and John Polk. They continue to assist the College this year.

Professor Thomas Bassett asked if the declining IUs effected faculty hiring plans in LAS. Dean Ross answered that the College does take into account the number of majors in a unit when the College reviews proposals from units on faculty hiring and expects that the campus does as well.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20. LAS Faculty Meeting with Provost Adesida and Executive Vice Provost Barbara Wilson begins at 3:30.