

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY HALL 226

September 15, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Present:

Professors: Lawrence A. Baum; Lora G. Dobos ; E. Kay Halasek, Chair; Michael Ibba; Daniel A. Mendelsohn; John M. Robinson; W. Randy Smith, Vice Chair; and Brian L. Winer.

Student Members: None.

Guests: Professor Vitaly Bergelson and Ms. Diana Bevilacqua (Department of Mathematics); Professor Jerry M. Bigham (School of Environment and Natural Resources); Professor Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost); Professor Craig B. Davis (School of Environment and Natural Resources); Jed Dickhaut (Office of the University Registrar); Professor, Terry L. Gustafson (Associate Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences); Dr. Kathleen M. Hallihan (Director, Curriculum and Assessment Office, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences); Professor Linda L. Harlow (Director, University Honors and Scholars Center); Professor Rebecca Harvey (Department of Art); Professor Julia L. Higle (Chair, Department of Industrial, Welding, and Systems Engineering); Judith A. Monson (Department of Mathematics); Professor Matthew S. Platz (Interim Dean, Colleges of Biological Sciences and Mathematical and Physical Sciences); Professor Ron M. Solomon (Department of Mathematics); and Dr. John D. Wanzer (Assistant Provost).

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR E. KAY HALASEK

Halasek reported that, following a meeting that she and Smith had with Julie Graber, Interim Director, and John Roberts, Interim Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Humanities, the proposal for the Institute for Women, Gender, and Public Policy will be withdrawn so that the proposers can consider whether to put it forward as a college center under the new rule.

We are still awaiting final appointments to the Council. Halasek and Mendelsohn (incoming Chair) are working on Subcommittee assignments.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith brought forward a request for the temporary use of the term “center” for the Center for RNA Biology. The faculty involved hope that the center status will allow them to

secure additional research funding. Faculty members come from Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine. Matthew S. Platz, Interim Dean, Colleges of Biological Sciences and Mathematical and Physical Sciences, reported that the University recently failed to obtain training grants from the National Institutes for Health due to insufficient university commitment. He indicated that he has provided and will provide additional funding for graduate associates in RNA biology research. He hopes that center status will allow the University to become more competitive in this area.

Council members had no objections. Winer moved approval; Robinson seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

Smith outlined the details of two proposals for minor curricular changes that he is approving: i) the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences requested changes to the Equine Science undergraduate minor; and ii) the Department of Civil Engineering and Geodetic Science requested minor changes to its Civil Engineering major. Council members had no objections.

Smith announced that the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering is in the final stages of review/approval at the Ohio Board of Regents. The Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental Engineering and City and Regional Planning will be considered next.

He will attend the Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction's planning retreat on September 19, 2008. He introduced Professor Terry Gustafson as the new Associate Dean in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences.

Last week he met with Professor Robert Coleman, Chair, University Research Committee, on the status of information on centers and institutes so that reviews could begin this year.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS E. KAY HALASEK AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Tabled proposal to revise the Mathematics honors minor**

Halasek introduced the tabled proposal to revise the Mathematics honors minor and raised the two issues that the Council had with the proposal: 1) an honors minor with no honors courses; and 2) the requirement that honors students must take the honors minor. She also raised the subsidiary issue of what happens if an honors student completes the honors minor but does not maintain the required GPA.

Linda L. Harlow, Director, University Honors and Scholars Center, addressed the honors option without honors courses, noting that in order to fulfill that option, students would have to complete upper level courses. This is in line with honors requirements for either

honors or upper level courses. The bulk of the courses in the Department of Mathematics are at the 500 level and above.

Because an honors contract would include the honors minor, failing to meet the requirement for the honors minor would force the student to choose between graduating with honors without the minor and graduating without honors but with a non-honors minor.

Several members of the Council expressed their concern that an honors student would be forced to choose between fulfilling an honors contract and having a minor if s/he was unable to fulfill the honors minor requirements. Halasek also raised the question about whether minors, including honors minors, would be able to be designated on a student's transcript. Robinson asked how honors contracts work. Gustafson reminded the Council that students can revise honors contracts, suggesting that a student could submit a request to revise an honors contract to allow for the non-honors minor.

The Council decided not to hold up this proposal based on the requirement that honors students must take the honors minor and will instead consider the implications more fully when it conducts a review of minor requirements later in this academic year.

The motion to approve the proposal was seconded by Winer and was approved by voice vote.

- **Proposal from the School of Environment and Natural Resources to change the name of its Graduate Program from Natural Resources to Environment and Natural Resources**

Halasek introduced the proposal, noting that the goal is to align the name of the graduate program with the name of the school. Professors Jerry M. Bigham and Craig B. Davis, School of Environment and Natural resources, addressed the history of the proposal, starting with the School's name change a few years ago and with the recent changes in the research areas of the faculty within the school.

Smith added that he had followed up with other units involved in the subject "environment", none of which expressed serious concerns with the change in the name of the graduate program. It was seen as a follow-up to previous name change action.

The motion to approve was seconded by Michael Ibba and was approved by voice vote

- **Proposal to change the name of the Department of Industrial, Welding, and Systems Engineering to the Department of Integrated Systems Engineering**

Professor Julia L. Higl, Chair, introduced the proposal by providing the history of how two departments were merged to create the current department, as well as the 2002 attempt to rename the department. She elaborated on the internal controversy associated with the proposal. Council members agreed that all appropriate internal steps had been taken.

The motion to approve was seconded by Robinson and was approved by voice vote.

- **Tabled revision to Japanese, Korean, and Chinese undergraduate majors**

The proposal remains tabled because no one from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures was able to attend the council meeting.

- **Proposal from the Department of Art to revise the Art BA/BFA degree transfer requirements**

Halasek introduced the proposal noting that the revisions were focused on how the process of directing students to the BA and BFA occurs rather than curricular changes. Professor Rebecca Harvey provided an explanation of the current system and highlighted the proposed changes. The changes are intended to help direct students into the most appropriate degree earlier in their career at the University. The Department is including improved advising to provide better guidance as students choose their degree.

The motion to approve the proposal was seconded by Mendelsohn and approved by voice vote.

Smith expressed thanks to those Council members whose terms ended with this Meeting. Special thanks were extended to Winer and Halasek who had served as Chair during their terms.

The Council adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
J. Briggs Cormier