

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting
October 2, 2008

Members Present: Marvin Zalman, Geoff Nathan, Charles Parrish, Seymour Wolfson, John Klein, Roslyn Schindler, Caroline Morgan, Robert Reynolds, Avis Vidal, Allen Batteau, Boris Baltes, David Coleman, Mark Vanberkum, Fred Pearson,

Attending: Robert Thomas, Donald Haase, David Njus, Joseph Rankin, Caroline Brzuchowski, Paul Clemens

Absent With Notice: Robert Aguirre, Mark Ferguson, Eric Ash, Mark Baskaran

The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

The minutes of the September 04, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

Suggestions for CLAS faculty and academic staff to serve on the university's Article XXX committees were taken.

The date change for President Noren's meeting with the CLAS Faculty Assembly was announced. The meeting will be held on Monday, October 13. Council felt that the Faculty Assembly regularly scheduled for the study day in December should be held as well, and not be replaced by this special assembly.

John Klein raised the issue of the lack of blackboards in classrooms and asked if there were any way that faculty could have input into the equipment present in the class space to which they are assigned. Geoff Nathan said that, in his capacity as faculty liaison to C&IT, he would see if the new class scheduling software could help with this.

Avis Vidal and Charles Parrish asked about the college's Budget Advisory Committee and when it might meet. Seymour Wolfson noted that with the four-percent drop in enrollment, a budget cut from the provost is possible. Dean Thomas said that he would convene the Budget Advisory Committee and seek its input.

The dean spoke of his contract extension through August of 2010 and the areas of concern that the provost asked him to address within the college. He noted that funding in the Social Sciences—one of the provost's concerns—accounts for only 3.7% of the college's total external funding. The college's total research expenditures, another concern, is down to \$14.5 million for this year, though that is within the +/- \$4 million standard deviation of the college's \$18 million funding mean over the last several years. The dean reinforced the long-term need for the college to hire faculty who will get grants.

The provost's third area of concern—the need for greater innovation in the teaching of large, lower-division courses—prompted Charles Parrish, who teaches such a course in

Political Science, to stress the need for the college and university to think systematically about remediation for under-prepared students.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55.