

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting
December 04, 2008

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

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

Absent With Notice: Avis Vidal, Eric Ash, Mark Baskaran

The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

The minutes of the November 06, 2008 meeting were approved.

Council agreed to keep the December 11 Faculty Assembly and January 8 Faculty Council meeting on the schedule for the time being.

Dean Thomas said that the college can cover the budget cut that will result from lowered enrollments. It is the possibility of a second cut, the result of the state budget shortfall, that concerns him. He said that he anticipates meeting with the college Budget Advisory Committee in mid-January, assuming that he knows more details about the budget situation by then. He noted that President Noren has said that the cuts will not be across the board.

David Coleman asked about the status of ongoing searches. The dean said that they are continuing. John Klein asked if, given the economic uncertainty, departments should hire the best candidates for positions or hire simply to fill the line. The dean reiterated his belief that departments should hire the best possible candidates for positions. Should the search fail, he acknowledged, there is no guarantee that the line will still be there next year.

Fred Pearson expressed displeasure with the name of Wayne State's new e-mail system, "Warrior Connect."

Allen Batteau asked about the recent meeting to discuss ways to stimulate research activity in the social sciences. Joe Rankin, who ran the meeting with Miriam Greenberg, explained that most of the social science chairs and some of the faculty attended, and that discussion centered on ways to encourage faculty to submit grant proposals. Rankin said that a future meeting with younger scholars in the social sciences will be arranged.

Seymour Wolfson asked about the status of the college's Promotion and Tenure process. Donald Haase said that, as of December 1, seventeen of the eighteen packets the college anticipated receiving were in.

Joseph Rankin said that the college has received thirty-five sabbatical leave applications and that there are two ESS and/or promotion applications for academic staff.

Council voted to cancel the December 11 Faculty Assembly.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15.