

Geography, Art History, History, and Political Science Department

October 9, 2013

Call to Order: 3:20, Cristina Hernandez presiding. Hal Hoffman is attending the Western History Association Conference. Other Department members present or accounted for.

Minutes of the September 11 meeting were read and approved with the following correction: "Classics Discipline" was changed to "Classics Courses (Classics 1 and Classics 2)". The Department had agreed to house specific Classics courses, not the Classics Discipline as such.

#### Business, New and Old

##### Reports:

Senate - Cristina gave the Senate Report. Here are the highlights.

- 1) We need a new Legislative Liaison. Don't be shy.
- 2) Computer upgrades and software upgrades are now underway.
- 3) The FON (Faculty Obligation Number) is low, so hires will likely be limited, and we may not even be allowed to replace all retirement/transfer positions. Our FON is now so low, in fact, that according to management we could drop by 8 full-time faculty positions overall and still meet state requirements.
- 4) There are still some Senate committee openings – any interested parties? Check the website.
- 5) Beta Meyer of the Biology Department is gathering data on past use of conference and travel monies for a report to the Senate and the college President.

Division Meeting Report: Hal had compiled a helpful list of key decisions and policies that Cristina reviewed and explained. Highlights below:

- 1) Division ranking of hires has been completed. Our requests for retirement/transfer replacements in History were ranked 4<sup>th</sup> (African American/U.S.) and 11<sup>th</sup> (World/Africa) of 17 requests across the Division. Growth hires in History and Art History fared worse, not surprisingly, since no growth is anticipated. Retirement replacements were a priority in our Division. This is only the first step of the process of determining which positions will be hired.
- 2) Be sure to read and review the new Division policies on reporting absences. Remember that classes will no longer be posted with sign-in sheets except under tightly defined conditions. Get used to emailing your classes via the Portal in the event of your absence.

Faculty Association: Sandy Esslinger gave the FA report.

- 1) The FA will be making a more systematic effort to solicit feedback from departments and keep communications flowing in both directions. Informal discussion of candidates for the FA Vice-Presidency ensued.
- 2) Sandy described a plan to ensure greater faculty involvement in planning Commencement. April moved and Raul seconded the plan to create a Task Force on Commencement. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Several issues and proposals are crossing Governor Brown's desk, include AB955 creating a two-tier course system for the benefit of the plutocracy (\$200/unit or MORE for summer and winter intersession courses). Schools are NOT required to participate in this "pilot program," now authorized until January 1, 2018. [Note: Brown signed AB955 on October 10, a day after our meeting.] and SB195 mandating the monitoring of so-called "success rates" for transfer degrees. [The Governor signed this bill on September 26.] These are significant issues. Stay tuned. [For information on these bills or any other state legislation, click on this link: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml> ]

- 4) Specific objectives for the aforementioned Task Force on Commencement sparked further discussion and general support.
- 5) The FA has endorsed one candidate for the MSAC Board of Trustees, Marlen Garcia, and has offered financial support for two others, Steve Herfert and Robert Hidalgo.
- 6) Sandy explained proposed changes to the Dental Insurance Plan. This topic drew several questions and further discussion, and the Department unanimously supported the proposed changes.

Department Business:

- 1) Raul Chavez requested Department approval of minor changes in the course documentation for History 44 (Native American History) that will enable the course to meet CSU transfer requirements for American Institutions (and per Title 5). April so moved and Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Allie moved that the Department re-approve the development of a Distance Learning course for History 1 (History of the United States). April seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Art History wants to develop a Distance Learning AHIS 5 course (Art History: Renaissance to Modern). April so moved and Sandy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 4) The Department discussed the need for a special Curriculum meeting and set the date and time for October 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 3:15. Please set up your WebCMS login information beforehand and bring your laptops. The contact person for WebCMS is Irene Inouye at ext 5412.
- 5) Updates on SLOs and GEOs – Course updates and development of new courses in our disciplines as well as SLOs and GEOs will be the focus of our Special Curriculum Meeting later this month. Bill said that SLOs and GEOs for Humanities 1 are in the pipes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Jones, Dept. Scribe