

School of Social Sciences Meeting  
September 11, 2007

Those present:

Jean Abshire, Ronald Allman, Benjamin Asare, James Beeby, Stephanie Bower, Dana Creamer, Donna Dahlgren, Elizabeth Eckerd, William Farrell, Deborah Finkel, Linda Gugin, Robert Lennartz, Billy Long, Robin Morgan, Bernadette Olson, Gregory Phipps, Kelly Ryan, Jim St. Clair, Valerie Scott, Yu Shen, Joseph Wert and Dean Clifford Staten.

Dean Staten opened the meeting by welcoming back all attendees. He noted that the School has a busy agenda for the coming year with three searches in beginning. The positions to be filled will be 2 tenure-track faculty and a director for the Oral History Program.

Fall enrollments were up .9% with incoming freshmen up 5%. Due to the fact that junior and senior enrollment are down, the Chancellor wants the focus to be on retention.

Dean Staten presented the School of Social Sciences Diversity Plan Draft Proposal for discussion. He asked for a motion to put the plan on the floor for discussion. A motion was made and seconded to address the Diversity plan.

A question was raised about inserting a statement under #4 regarding upper level diversity courses offered. Discussion followed. A further question was raised as to whether to more specifically define diversity. Should there be criteria defining diversity? Should we leave the definition of diversity as broad as possible? Perhaps the vagueness of the definition is a strength. Each discipline may define and assess its program with more flexibility. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the Diversity Plan as proposed. The motion passed unanimously with none opposed and no abstentions.

Dean Staten noted that the School of Social Sciences Diversity Plan will be posted on the School of Social Sciences website as well as being sent to Vice Chancellor Atnip and Chancellor Patterson-Randles.

Dean Staten introduced Kelly Ryan, Assistant Professor of History, and Dana Creamer, Academic Advisor, to the faculty attending. Dana will meet with each discipline in order to define her relationship with the discipline. A question was raised as to whether Dana's office hours could be later more than one night per week in order to meet the needs of both Monday/Wednesday students and Tuesday/Thursday students. Examples would be Monday/Tuesday or Tuesday/Wednesday, etc. Dean Staten replied that he would discuss this with Dana and that the office would be flexible and try to work out the best plan to meet all students needs.

Dean Staten also invited all to attend the Advising Workshop on September 28<sup>th</sup> in CV 111. Advising hints, how to read degree audits and other fascinating facts will be offered. Morning coffee and lunch (with a vegetarian option) will be provided.

Dean Staten also noted that those wishing to make changes to the Discipline Web Pages should

contact his/her coordinator who will in turn contact Brigette Colligan with the change. Dean Staten has instructed Brigette to accept changes from Coordinators only.

All mid-term grades must be submitted for first-year students on One Start ONLY. DO NOT use Oncourse. More information should be coming from the registrar in the near future.

One of the most pressing issues studied over the summer break was scheduling of courses. The committee studying the problem of room space and scheduling found that only 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 1:15-2:30 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m. time slots are filled to capacity. Also, at the present time, a class is offered every 5 minutes during the day with little regard to standard class times. Vice Chancellor Atnip asks each discipline to thoughtfully consider the times that courses are offered in order to alleviate this problem. Perhaps a one-day-a-week Friday course would be an option with the coming of the dorms. Students will be on campus on Fridays once the dorms open and this may be a good option to choose. It was also noted that General Education courses could be offered in the less used time slots due to the fact that these courses will fill because they are required. Vice Chancellor Atnip also asks each discipline to investigate if a student can get a degree in its discipline in 6 years while attending only at night.

#### REMINDERS:

1. Everyone should teach at least 1 night course per year.
2. Give Brigette a paper copy of your syllabus for our files.
3. The Common Experience meeting this week especially speaks about relevant topics for incoming students. Please let your new students know this.

Questions were addressed regarding the rooms being vacated by It in the basement of Crestview Hall. Dr. Staten said that he has been told that the rooms will be vacated during the Spring semester and he noted that we are working to make our needs known to Vice Chancellor Atnip. We have not received a final decision as to the disposition of these rooms thus far.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.