

*****Amended and Approved at August 20, 2009 Division Meeting*****

**Social Science Division Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2009**

In attendance: Pareena Lawrence (Chair), Leslie Meek, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Paula O'Loughlin, Solomon Gashaw, Rebecca Dean, Sheri Breen, Jennifer Deane, Bert Ahern, Seung –Ho Joo, Arne Kildegaard, Jennifer Rothchild, Julie Pelletier, Dennis Stewart, Katherine Benson, Stephen Burks, Heather Peters, and Octavian Vasilescu.

Student Representative in attendance: Jared Walhowe, Sheila Nezhad, and Matt Nelson

Newly elected Student Representatives for 2009-10 in attendance: Laura Weldy, Kathy Julik-Heine, Miranda Tjadin, and Nicole Swanson. Michael McBride was absent

Guest: Shannon Juhnke, Division Office Student Worker

Chair Pareena Lawrence brought the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

I. Announcements

It was announced that Paula O'Loughlin was awarded full professor this year. Also, Jennifer Rothchild and Julie Pelletier were both awarded tenure and promotion. In the fall Arne Kildegaard is going for promotion to full professor and Jennifer Deane for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. There will be 3 faculty members going on leave this fall: Marynel Ryan, Steve Gross, and Harold Hinds. Several social science faculty members were awarded grants including: Jennifer Deane, Steve Burks, and Arne Kildegaard. Phil Deger also received recognition for the award received by the SHRM Chapter, of which he is the faculty advisor. As far as student achievements, Social Science students did exceptionally well. There were twenty one student participants in the undergraduate research symposium, and two student participants at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. We had two Udall scholars, one Curtis Larson award winner, one Mary Martelle award recipient, one Katherine E. Sullivan Scholarship recipient, and four students were awarded Scholars of the College. Lawrence welcomed new faculty members to the discipline: Joe Beaver, Kevin Stefanek, Cheryl Stewart, Jacqueline Julien, and Philip Deger. Four members of the division will be leaving UMM: Ronald Shaw, Octavian Vasilescu, Suhas Saha, and Patrick Shorb.

Recognition was given to previous student representatives and the new student representatives were introduced. Recognition was also given to students who worked as TAs for no pay or no credit.

Brenda Boever, Advising was unable to attend the meeting but sent a statement defining the purpose of the advisor mentor program. The following social science faculty members were recognized for their participation in the program: Paula O'Loughlin, Jennifer Deane, Leslie Meek, and Joan Reicosky.

Chair Lawrence announced that the Social Science Division now has the lowest budget allocation of all four divisions on campus. She thanked the faculty for their efforts in being under budget. However, next year's budget has been cut by 5 percent and we need to do even more with less. In order to save on costs to meet our lower allocation, the Division will no longer purchase individual printer. There will also be a change in the allocation of duplicating funds. The funds will be distributed based on the number of students taught. The lowest possible allocation is 200 dollars and the highest is 400.

II. Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

III. Committee elections

Faculty Affairs Committee

Rebecca dean was the sole nominee for the position on the faculty affairs committee and was elected to represent the Division on the FAC.

Policy Committee Elections

Bert Ahern will be stepping down as vice chair and Leslie Meek will be replacing him as Division as vice chair. Currently, the policy committee members are: Jennifer Deane, Dennis Stewart, Bert Ahern, and Paula O'Loughlin. Paula O'Loughlin will be stepping down from the Policy Committee. The slate for next year's policy committee is: Leslie Meek, Bert Ahern, Dennis Stewart, and Jennifer Deane. There was a nomination for Roland Guyotte to replace Bert Ahern. The slate was unanimously approved with the contingency that if Roland Guyotte does not accept, then Bert Ahern will serve.

IV. Agenda from Policy Committee

During the last promotion and tenure discussions it was expressed that the process for obtaining external reviews needed to be standardized. The potential external reviewers will now receive a self addressed postcard requesting them to participate in the process. They can accept or decline the request. If they decide to participate they will have the option of receiving a hard copy of the materials or a password protected electronic file. It was affirmed that candidates will have the right to reject an external reviewer prior to any contact with reviewers being made.

There were concerns about the language in the letter sent out to external reviewers. Many thought that the phrase "good research" sounded like UMM has low research standards. There was also an issue with the mission statement line that stated our "mission is primarily instructional." It was proposed that educational replace the word instructional. Some thought that educational was even less appropriate and perhaps the word teaching would be more specific. Steve Burks proposed the following change: "Our mission is primarily instructional, but as a unit of a major research university, our faculty are also expected to produce high quality research." It was noted that the difference between UMM and a major research university is that we are expected to produce quality research, not simply quantity. It was inquired if the current statement is standard throughout all the

divisions at UMM. Jennifer Rothchild proposed the following change in language, “The University of Minnesota Morris is a selective undergraduate only campus of the University of Minnesota system with a student body of 1700 students and about 100 faculty. As a liberal arts college, we consider teaching, research and service for tenure and promotion. We expect faculty to produce high quality research.” There was a motion to keep the current language if it is a standard throughout all the other divisions. If not, the letter will be changed to Jennifer Rothchild’s proposed language. The motion passed. There was also a motion that if we revert to current language, there will be further discussion in the fall. That motion also passed.

Division Mission Statement

Each division is being asked to define their individual mission and how they contribute to the mission of the campus. The Policy Committee attempted to revamp the mission statement to more clearly reflect the division’s goals. There were a few disagreements with the phrase “understanding humans and their diversity.” There were several changes to the mission statement made. It was suggested that the word mission be changed to goals. The third bullet was moved to second and altered to read, “Providing service in cooperation with other offices and programs to the campus and the greater community that contribute to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge to social science and related fields.” These changes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35.