

Minutes of the LAS Faculty Meeting

September 21, 2009

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2009 were approved.

Report of the Dean

Three new faculty were named to the position of LAS Distinguished Professor: Lennard Davis from English and disability studies, Henry Howe from biological sciences and Peter Shalen from mathematics. Three faculty members who were also named LAS Master Teachers: Matthew Lippman from criminology, law and justice, Karina Reyes from psychology and David Weible from Germanic studies. Through the hard work of the Executive Committee, we were able to award seven LAS interdisciplinary research awards this year in our new interdisciplinary research program.

Lincoln Hall renovations were completed in the fall.

Currently we have twenty-three alumni friends, each of whom are significant donors to LAS. They make up our volunteer board of visitors and provide advice to the Dean.

Through the financial support of Jim and Jamie McNulty, LAS is proud to expand our efforts in Asian studies this fall under new leadership, Esther Klein, from Princeton University. Jim McNulty is an alumni and a member of our Board of Visitors. The McNulty's have given the College \$300,000 in support of this expansion. We are hopeful that this will be the beginning of an exciting new chapter for us in Asian studies.

Another program that is benefiting from the financial support of another alumni and Board of Visitor member, Dr. Howard Kaufman, is our new undergraduate research initiative. Currently, twenty-three undergraduates are participating for their first semester in fall 2009. Dr. Howard Kauffman pledged \$100,000 in support of this program.

With regard to our campaign goal, LAS is currently at about 52% of our \$62 million dollar goal.

Significant changes in student academic affairs that will benefit our students have been made as a result of the undergraduate student progress review conducted in academic year 07-08. Some these changes include: retroactive credits for foreign languages, a change in the timing of the course drop dead line moved later in the term, and GPA recalculation of repeated courses. We continue to look at undergraduate programs to see what other road blocks there may be to

students finishing in a timely fashion. We are also committed to looking at the first year experience. We now have a committee led by Manny Pollack and Sloan Williams.

A revised version of the LAS Executive Officers Handbook has been completed and is available on our website.

The consolidation and conversion of the LAS Scholarship application process is moving along. We have taken the beginning part of that process online. This year's plan is to take the entire process online.

We launched a new joint MA and MPH Degree Program in Anthropology and Public Health.

LAS is having its first regional alumni event in NY City on October 15th.

The department of anthropology has won a grant from the Luce Foundation in the amount of \$400,000 which will help fund a new faculty position in Asian archeology.

Mathematician Janet Beissinger and three other UIC professors have won a five-year, \$2.5 million NSF grant to develop the Cryptoclub.

The Chicago Transformation Teachers Institute proposal, led by Donald Wink, professor of chemistry, has been funded to sponsor five universities to come together to provide mathematics and science leadership development for CPS high schools. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation for just under \$5 million.

Donald Wink was among five experts called to Washington to testify before the House Committee on Science and Technology Research and Science Education subcommittee. The July 30th hearing focused on efforts by the public and private sectors to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education both inside and outside of the classrooms, specifically in Chicago.

Jim Pellegrino, co-director of the Learning Science Research Institute, has been appointed to two national panels related to Educational Technology.

The department of Germanic studies was chosen by the UIC Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for the Departmental Teaching Excellence Award.

Tony Orum has been named the winner of the Robert and Helen Lynd Award for Lifetime Achievement and Service from the Community and Urban Sociology section of the American Sociological Association.

Kim Potowski, associate professor of Spanish linguistics, has been awarded a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies to research heritage speakers of eastern European languages in the United States.

Barry Chiswick, distinguished professor of economics, was awarded an honorary doctor of philosophy degree by the School of Economics and Management on May 29th from Lund University in Sweden.

Robin Mermelstein, professor of psychology, is the principal investigator of a five-year study funded for \$2.9 million by the National Cancer Institute.

Giedrius Subacius, professor of Slavic and Baltic languages and literatures, will be honored this fall by the Republic of Lithuania's Ministry of Education for his active role in promoting Lithuanian culture and studies, and his achievements in related humanities and social science research. Professor Subacius is a linguist and a senior research fellow at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language. He will receive a \$6,000 for the award this fall.

Rafail Abramov, associate professor of mathematics, statistics and computer science, won a \$473,000 National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

Henry Gillet, professor of mathematics, statistics and computer science, has been named Dean of the Graduate College.

Claire Decoteau, assistant professor of sociology, received the American Sociological Association 2009 Dissertation Award for her study.

Report of the LAS Executive Committee

The committee met twice this year to date. The first meeting was an organizational meeting. During the second meeting, there was a budget presentation and a charge to review the College Bylaws. Steve Guggenheim has agreed to lead this sub-committee. Issues, such as retention, will be considered at future meetings, and in December, we will review promotion and tenure cases.

Report of the EPC

New EPC members are Sara Hall and Anjum Ansari. On August 31st, Todd DeStigter of the English department was elected chair of the EPC. EPC approved History 137 for general education credit in the GenEd category, understanding the individual and society.

At the September 14th meeting, the committee approved the following:

- Urban Planning and Policy 205 for designation in the Gen Ed category, understanding the individual and society.
- Environmental Sciences 101's change in title, reduction of the number credit hours by 1, and for Gen Ed designation in the category, analyzing the natural world.
- Environmental Sciences 102's change in title, reduction of credit hours from 5 to 4, and designation in the GenEd category, analyzing the natural world.
- A change of prerequisite from EAES 102 to 111 for Earth and Environmental Sciences 200 - Field work in Missouri.
- Computer Engineering 115 for designation in the Gen Ed category, analyzing the natural world.
- Creation of a new LAS School of Literature, Cultures Studies, and Linguistics, recognition of the department of linguistics and the department of French studies as individual academic units within the school, and with the departure of the French scholars, the change of name from what was formerly the Department of Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies.
- Revision of the Masters of Science and Applied Mathematics.
- Formation of the Asian American Studies Program, a minor in Asian American Studies, a revision to Asian American 125, approval of a new course Asian American Studies 210; and designation of both courses in the Gen Ed categories, understanding US society, and understanding the individual and the society.

All EPC changes and additions to the curriculum of LAS were approved by faculty at this meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Sloan Williams was nominated and elected as the new Secretary of the LAS Faculty.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sloan Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'W'.

Sloan Williams
Faculty Secretary