

Present: A. Imhoff, P. Bolger, J. Mercieca, E. Johnansen, T. Morris, T. Dubriwny, H-E Kim, S. Oberhelman, S. Miller, M. Ezell, E. Easwaran, R. Reese, C. Hemming

Begins at 3:02 pm

Topics

- SO opens it up for discussion
 - Mentions new Interim Dean
 - Mentions deadline for the naming of new associate deans (end of May)
 - There will be two associate deans in charge of Faculty Affairs
 - New Dean (or President) is not enthusiastic about divisions with assistant deans
 - New Dean will take over in mid-August, probably
 - SO is pushing for a change of administration as soon as possible in August
- AI on Performance Studies
 - Has received a lot of “I don’t know” from higher-ups
 - Doesn’t know what the chain-of-command is going to be (not a problem when things are going fine; but a big problem when things don’t)
 - Faculty in the school will be placed into various “clusters”
 - SO mentioned that there will be no department heads in Performance Studies
 - AI confirmed
 - The feeling in the department is fractious (students, faculty, and staff)
- JM
 - Changes afoot in Communication
 - Journalism is staying in Communication after successful lobbying effort
 - Should be renamed “Dept. of Communication & Journalism”
 - There should be a journalism degree being proposed soon
- AI asked about Hispanic Studies; SO answered:
 - A Change.org petition has about 5,000 signatures
 - Clarification: Spanish is not being eliminated; it’s being realigned
 - It will be combined with International Studies, which will be renamed and called “Global Languages & Cultures” (also includes Religious Studies and Africana Studies)
- TM wanted to talk about Interdisciplinary Studies
 - Just learned that the college’s interdisciplinary programs are going into individual departments
 - Looking for guidance from College on where to go and what to do
 - SO
 - May 20th is the deadline to assign degrees and certificates to departments
 - SO related his experience making this work when Film Studies joined Performance Studies. The transition was fairly smooth.
 - Departments will experience some new responsibilities with respect to support staff, but nothing much in terms of the burden on the department head.

- It will not be too onerous for a new program to join a department.
- In today's climate, this can be a good thing in terms of "safety." Being a small program in and of itself can be risky.
- TM concerned about retaining majors and minors, etc. Everything is happening so fast that she is concerned.
- TD added that bringing in a new degree to a department is not an easy task
- SO agrees, but notes that nothing precludes future changes to interdisciplinary programs being moved or becoming their own department
 - He likes to think that these changes are temporary
 - He'd rather get all this done now rather than in September when there will be a new dean
- The original idea was to move them ALL into GLAC, but there was a compromise away from this: The interdisciplinary programs need to be in a department
- SO says that the programs need to show numbers and the growth to justify creating new structures for these programs
- SO's advice is to show this growth and vitality in the future to facilitate future changes
- SM asked whether there are any uncomfortable changes that higher-ups are beginning to see with all the changes they have begun
 - SO said that at the present, not many.
 - Tim Scott is overwhelmed: He's managing ca. 30 working groups, and responsible for implementing all the changes
 - SM is worried that the changes that those down below are experiencing are not filtering up to the top
- CH was asked about how things are going in International Studies
 - To people in IS, there is a lot of potential in the proposal for the new department (GLAC).
 - There's a lot of work ahead though
 - People are kind of anxious to get to work on it (having been in limbo for 3-4 months)
- ME was asked about library situation
 - A lot of library faculty had decided that becoming staff in other departments is not desirable
 - ME is not sure how things are going to work out
 - ME says that she was shocked at the low quality of MTG's report on the "library of the future"
 - It looks like they're going to move many resources to off-site, suggesting that some things will then require a significant waiting period to obtain (e.g., 7-10 days).
 - It's also unclear whether the library working group will survive
 - It may get dissolved, and be replaced by another

- SO asked about other working groups
 - Notes that there's a lot going on, but all the working groups have agendas that they do not "hang together" yet
- SM asked about SACSCOC
 - SO replied that SACSCOC did not see any problems
 - TAMU received high marks
 - No new review for 7 years
 - AI asked about representation (by state) of SACSCOC
 - SO noted that they came here only looking for certain things
 - SACSCOC spent several months looking at the TAMU reports submitted in the Fall. They had certain questions about certain programs, locations, etc.
 - With respect to the MTG report and the proposed changes, they didn't say much other than minutiae.
- AI asked about SO and what his plans are
 - SO has accepted an administrative position outside of CLAS
 - AI expressed her gratefulness to SO
- ME asked whether the LAC will continue to exist
 - SO said, "I don't know."
 - There might be new divisions, in which case there would be some autonomy by division.
 - Maybe meet by division regularly, but then meet as a college once a year?
 - There will be a Liberal Arts Student Council working alongside the student council for CLAS, and the same may be true for Development.
 - JM mentioned that the new Dean used to have a LAC, and it functioned "very differently" than the current LAC
- SO thanked the group
 - Mentioned that if there's something that needs to be done during the summer, he will send out an email.