Meeting of the College of Arts and Humanities Assembly
September 5, 2013  3:00 PM  Student Union 218

Minutes

Dean José Fernández called the meeting to order. He said that the last minute schedule changes were necessary after the cancellation of Vice President Biden’s visit.

Dr. Fernández introduced the Dean’s Office staff. He informed that Paul Lartonoix has moved to a new position in Millican Hall, and his duties will be covered by others in the Dean’s office. He introduced the chairs and directors in units within the college.

The minutes from the CAH Assembly of September 10, 2012 were approved. Dr. Fernández announced that Keith Koons, CAH Secretary, was stepping down from this position.

Dr. Fernández gave his report about the college. Last year, we were faced with bad news, including a large budget reduction and a reduction in required General Education Program hours, possibly leading to lower enrollments. This year, things have improved and the GEP changes have been pushed back to 2015 and will stay at 36 hours.

Dr. Fernández said that many awards have been earned by the college. Last year, we had the highest number of assessment programs rated as exemplary. The college proposal for IT initiatives, submitted by Hepner and McDaniel, was funded as a one-year program ($630K) and could be extended.

Dr. Fernández compared the current state of the college in different areas. The number of tenure/tenure track faculty is about the same as 2008. Compared to 2008, we see a reduction in the number of adjunct faculty and visiting faculty, and an increase in instructors. The headcount for bachelor’s degrees, and the number of degrees awarded, has increased since 2008. The number of master’s degrees offered, and headcount for master’s degrees have increased. The headcount for our doctorate program is about the same, and the number of degrees granted has shown a decrease.

The research dollars awarded to faculty in academic departments has fluctuated. Last year, 50 proposals were submitted, with 29 funded. He noted that some federal agencies have had budget reductions.

Total Student Credit Hours showed an increase through 2012, but showed a worrisome drop since last year. Dr. Fernández cited numerous causes, including more AP tests being taken by incoming students, more transfer students, summer
courses taken at state colleges, and the current obsession with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics programs.

Dr. Fernández made several announcements. There is a new exhibit opening in the Art Gallery today. On September 7 there will be a Heart Walk to support the American Heart Association and he encouraged everyone to participate. President Hitt will make his State of the University address on September 24.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Submitted by Keith Koons, Secretary.