CVPA Faculty Council
Meeting - 1/27/11

Present: Ray Marchionni, Tom Lingeman, Cornel Gabara, Debra Davis, Barbara Miner, Holly Monsos, Debra Orloff, Eric Johanson, Jim Hill.

Quorum achieved.

Minutes of 1-11-11 Approved.

Discussions ensued regarding volunteers for additional College committees. Barbara brought up the possibility of creating a Council of the Whole as opposed to smaller committees. Tom suggested that this might be a better option.

Ray stated that there will however be a need for the three committees: Constitution, Curriculum, and Elections, as well as CCAP. He also emphasized that we need departmental equalization of representation on these standing committees. He further suggested that some matters might be best handled in open College meetings and address specifics as might be necessary in the smaller committees.

Cornel asked for clarification re: the impact, or importance of the constitution. He expressed concern that there might not be respect for the constitution on the part of some of the upper administrators. Tom said that he feels that the constitution will give faculty more clout. Ray said that the constitution sets up procedures that protect faculty and that the constitution will actually be drafted and ratified by the College faculty.

Deb Davis informed the Council that the President expects the new college to create its own constitution, to help define the college. She implied that the President is eager for the constitution to be drafted. Ray discussed the work that needs to be done on the constitution, i.e., its composition and whether or not a lawyer, and which lawyer, could/should be consulted.

Discussion of the place of the bylaws in regard to the constitution ensued. Each department will look at its own bylaws. Ray suggested that the bylaws be posted on the website along with the ratified constitution.

Since each standing committee must be chaired by a member of the Faculty Council, and in balancing departmental representation on the committees, Cornel volunteered to serve as chair of the Constitution Committee; other members include Tim Brakel (music) and Chris Burnett (art).

Jim will chair Curriculum Committee; Stephen Hodge and David Guip will serve on the Curriculum Committee.
Discussion of charge to the Elections Committee ensued. Tom volunteered to chair the Elections Committee. Jason Stumbo (music) will serve on the committee; as of the meeting, an additional volunteer had not come forth.

Discussion of alternate CVPA meeting site in the CPA room 1023. Should a meeting of the whole occur, due to a specific agenda, the meeting will be shifted to the alternate site. The meetings at the CPA site will begin at 5:00 and last until 6:00.

Discussions surrounding the CVPA Faculty Council and the Dean and the Associate Dean’s roles in the meetings. All agreed that it is an exciting time to create a positive, on-going give and take dialogue with the upper administration in the new college. Ray stated that the college administrators’ specific roles on the Council will be defined in the new constitution.

The day’s agenda included a discussion with dean; Ray introduced Debra Davis.

Debra circulated a memorandum entitled “First Steps.”

Debra said that Dick Putney suggested that there be an invitation to the other [College] departments to visit the CVA, and then each of the other departments would do the same so that each faculty body could become more familiar with one another.

Debra began the discussion of a college mission statement, a model of which she provided:

The College of Visual and Performing Arts of The University of Toledo will provide students with an engaging contemporary learning environment, one that fosters creative investigation, and intellectual excellence. We honor tradition, while embracing innovation. We are dedicated to advancement of the arts through collaboration in learning and artistic practice.

After discussion of mission statements, it was decided that each council member would tweak the statement and send their suggested statements to Ray, who would then distribute them to other council members prior to the next scheduled meeting (February 10).

Jim discussed the Yale School of Drama and Yale Repertory Theatre’s Mission statement. It is copied below.

Yale School of Drama and Yale Repertory Theatre are committed to rigorous, adventurous, and passionate exploration of our art form. We embrace a global audience. Our highest aim is to train artistic leaders in every theatrical discipline who create bold new works that astonish the mind, challenge the heart, and delight the senses.
Debra spoke about admissions standards. Discussion of admissions standards for the college and departments individually ensued. Examples of situations where portfolios and auditions have actually benefited the recruitment of students by the requirement of such hurdles for new applicants were discussed. It was agreed that prestige can be established through the perception of rigor in the admission process. Jim said that the first Major's course acts to weed out students who will not be successful in the program. Ray, concerned about enrollments possibly going down soon after more stringent requirements are established, asked Debra if she would support a period of lower enrollments. Debra responded that if documentation supports the fact that in the end students will flock to the school, then lowered initial enrollments for a short period of time can be tolerated. Ray then tied higher admission standards to higher retention rates. The chairs, dean, associate dean will put together a proposal for altering the mission standards; the document will then go to the faculty for feedback. Further discussion of possible configurations of standards took place.

Debra discussed A&S Skills Requirements and that CVPA Skills Requirements do NOT have to match the old A&S Skills list. Decisions must be made regarding which courses should be included, and which should not. All of the core courses must be reconsidered at the departmental level because of subsidy issues. Special topics course issues are in the process of being resolved, however more discussion still needs to take place.

The topic of Assessment was discussed next. The assessment of courses is critical, in part because of the upcoming Higher Learning Commission report. Faculty Senate is in the process of putting together their outlines for the assessment of Core Courses. Discussion of possible ways to approach the reporting of the specific requirements ensued.

An Honors discussion of the new College’s curriculum and how it relates to the Honors College was the last of the dean’s list. Much discussion still needs to occur.

Eric motioned to close meeting, Barbara seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:18.

Next meeting to be held on February 10th.