

Department of Classics
Faculty Meeting Minutes

28 November 2012

Approved by Faculty (date): 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Present: Jim Anderson, Christy Albright, Elena Bianchelli, Damaris Corrigan, Keith Dix, Marilyn Evans, Erika Hermanowicz, Jared Klein, John Nicholson, Naomi Norman, Chuck Platter, Sallie Spence, Ben Wolkow

Absent: Mario Erasmo, Robert Harris, Gail Polk

Excused:

Welcome

N. Norman, Head of the Department of Classics, opened the meeting and greeted everyone.

The meeting followed the attached agenda.

Departmental Announcements & Information from the Dean

- J. Anderson - don't forget to announce the Rome program to your classes. The deadline is January 23. Nine students have signed up, but we need at least 15.
- N. Norman - the last graduate colloquium is this Friday in the MLC. Please attend if you can. It's been a great series.
- The Dean and UGA Lawyers— Just a reminder of UGA's anti-discriminations and harassment policies. (attached)
- The Dean is discussing reinstating the faux sabbatical program in Franklin College —The Dean is working on finding funding, which could happen as early as later this (fiscal) year.
- NN will attend a Humanities Heads meeting on Friday, some of the agenda items are as follows:
 - § Discussion about what humanities units can do to respond in the changing times in higher education.
 - § Strategies for future rounds of President's Hiring Initiative positions; and for other positions in general. This will be humanities' chance to make a compelling argument for new hires.
 - § Possibility of unit heads and directors meeting periodically in small groups to discuss variety of issues.

- **Provost's summer grants**

- N. Norman - applications for Provost's summer grants due to her by noon on Dec 10th. She will rank them and forward them as a group to Dean's office.
- We have a lot of faculty who have been applying to and participating in study abroad, which is good, but we need to be careful when we have two people gone in a year or semester. The Department doesn't get funding to replace courses vacated by faculty who are teaching in studies abroad. How can we make this better work for everyone?
 - C. Platter – This problem requires a solution above the departmental level.
 - N. Norman – I have brought it up to the Dean, but there is not yet a solution. The Department should figure out a system of better communication to make sure we don't have two people gone per semester.
 - J. Anderson - one solution for people with buy-outs is to teach the majority of courses on campus and use the buy-out to help ameliorate the stress on the department. Of course, not everyone has this opportunity.
 - K. Dix -will study abroad programs allow you to teach only one course?
 - C. Albright, C. Platter – yes, that's the norm.
 - N. Norman – The Department Head should be informed as soon as possible when someone is applying to teach abroad, so arrangements can be made to determine a solution for the department-alternating semesters, etc.
 - S. Spence- would recommend that N. Norman make policy and that applicants discuss it with the Head.
 - J. Anderson – N. Norman should create a policy; usually study abroad programs are more anxious to find people to teach in spring.
 - C. Platter - are decisions on the various programs made at the same time?
 - N. Norman - thinks they are. Decisions are made for two or three semesters out.
 - S. Spence - this seems like a departmental decision because of the way it affects the department. It would be fair to set policy...for example, limit participation to every three years or something like that
 - J. Anderson - Cortona would love to have Classics faculty participate regularly.
 - S. Spence - how many of our majors go on these studies abroad?
 - Cortona – a few
 - Oxford - some
 - N. Norman – It's a double whammy for the department. We lose enrollment, which can make it difficult to hire more faculty. And we don't have enough faculty to teach the courses we need taught. It will be an ongoing problem and I want you to know it's an issue. N. Norman will try to come up with a reasonable policy. Bottom line, the Head needs to know if you're planning to

teach abroad in the next semester(s). She encourage syou to take these opportunities, but vacating courses is an issue you need to be aware of.

- **Proposal to re-organize the majors** - approved by the Franklin Faculty Senate. The proposal is on its way to the upper reaches. It is expected to sail through with no problems.
- **IDL revenues**
 - About \$9000 was returned to the department. The Department will get funds next year, but that will be the end of IDL revenue sharing.
- **UNC Classics Conference (attached) –**
 - other undergraduate conferences – N. Norman - We should encourage our students to participate in these events. Some of her undergraduate papers would be excellent for a conference like this. N. Norman would like to set up an undergraduate travel fund to parallel the existing graduate travel fund, which could support a couple of undergraduate students per year.
 - K. Dix - make sure Eta Sigma Phi knows about this as well.
 - N. Norman – since everyone seems to agree, watch the website for an undergraduate travel funds application. When it’s ready, we’ll announce it on undergraduate listserv.
 - Fall Graduate student travel funds went to C. Clerkin to give a paper at SECAC and to A. Skillicorn to give paper at APA; remind graduate students to apply for spring travel. The next application deadline is March 1st.
- See the Great interview with Chad Wisinger in Germany that Kevin Scahill posted on the website. Make sure you thank Kevin. If you know of a student that would be a good profile for the site, let us know.
 - K. Dix – we could interview Mannion winners.
- S. Spence- There is a conference on Saturday, Dec. 1 on “History of the Book: More than Words.” Come if you can. The conference starts at 9 am in the Special Collections Library. A keynote talk will be given by Adam Smyth of The University of London.

Committee Reports

- none

Discussion and Possible Action Item

- Joint A.B. / M.A. degree in Classical Languages (attached) – N. Norman - at our last meeting, there was consensus about having each student in the joint AB/MA program write a Master’s thesis. Therefore, the degree would be an AB/MA in Classical Languages. Breaking the degree down into a timetable turned out to be

more complicated than we thought. We must assume that the program would be attractive only to students who come in with a lot of AP credits. The attached schedule is mapped out by credit hours rather than years. Only honors students have the opportunity for the joint degree. We would need to have students talk to their advisors, undergraduate and graduate coordinators when they reach the 50 - 60 credit hour range to see if they're really interested and whether the program is a good fit.

-K. Dix – we currently allow students to declare majors at 45 hours instead of 60.

-N. Norman - we were thinking of the student who has finished their elementary languages and starts at UGA with higher level courses. If they come in with a slew of hours, they may be able to complete the joint degree in four years; otherwise it would be a five year program.

-S. Spence - what is the advantage to the joint degree?

-N. Norman - it is better for the department to have more graduate students enrolled, and it would be another tool to recruit high quality undergraduates.

-S. Spence- our current strong graduate students show growth within the department, rather than a temporary phase. I am leery of giving MA credit to students who come in with a lot of AP credits. I'm not sure that these students are ready for a graduate program by their third year. ~~Am I correct that there aren't any opportunities for teaching?~~

-K. Dix - on the other hand, we're not talking about very many students...

-S. Spence- it would be one thing if we had a terminal PhD, but since the MA is our terminal degree, it should be kept separate from the AB. I'm worried it will weaken the prestige of the MA program. I would like to take some time to think about the ramifications.

-N. Norman – we're talking about the very rare student. I would rather see that student come here, get nurtured by our program, and graduate with a masters, rather than go somewhere else.

-B. Wolkow – I think we should be open to exceptional students. Some of the undergraduates can be better students than the graduate students. They need ability and maturity. The faculty should have time to determine whether they're ready by their third year.

-S. Spence – I'm against getting through education faster.

-N. Norman - it's about offering an enhancement to the rare, extremely talented student who is planning on going on to a PhD program.

-J. Klein - having a lot of AP credit is not the same as taking classes. If you're talking about students who come in with a lot of elementary language credit...we're not really talking about them, right? Because they would be ready to go into the upper level courses, but if you're talking about AP in Vergil, etc., they wouldn't be ready for

graduate level work.

~~-S. Spence - that's true. I wouldn't want people coming in who don't know the language.~~

-N. Norman - if someone comes in with a lot of AP credit, it's probably covering most of their core requirements, so they can focus on their major courses. I would rather keep these students in our department.

-S. Spence – I disagree. At the undergraduate level they should have broader interests

-J. Klein - why do they have to be Honors students?

-N. Norman – the joint degree is part of the Honors Program.

-J. Klein – it's a specific skill to learn languages. There might be better students who aren't in Honors.

-N. Norman – They have to be Honors students. They must apply to the joint degree; they must apply to the Graduate School. All interested parties in the Department must sign off on the joint degree applications.

-J. Klein - what about the issue of maturity vs. seasoning? We are giving people an opportunity to gain maturity over a period of years. I don't see that they would necessarily be less mature than our current graduate students.

-S. Spence - some graduate students come in very green. The two years after undergraduate are an important seasoning time. The MA program should have everyone engaged with the same focus.

-E. Hermanowicz – I have an undergrad in seminar who is great at language, but doesn't know how to interpret a text. Since this is so much about the transfer between undergraduate and graduate, why aren't we discussing this with the graduate faculty?

-N. Norman – It encompasses both undergraduate and graduate degrees and therefore is a general faculty matter.

-K. Dix - our previous discussions were all in general faculty meetings. Some of our graduate students don't compete well with other graduate students.

-S. Spence – I'm not sure I agree.

-K. Dix – I can give examples that were easily the match of some of our graduate students.

-J. Klein - Are our graduate students that seasoned?

-S. Spence - there is a seasoning that goes on in their offices, classes, etc.

-B. Wolkow – we're talking about exceptional people who may be ready. There should be enough screening to determine that they're ready. Why should we hold back those few? It will also look good for the program and could attract serious students even if they don't participate in the program.

-S. Spence - it could also weaken the stand-alone masters.

- N. Norman - the proof is in the pudding, in the thesis that these students write.
- S. Spence - thinks there are ramifications from the graduate faculty standpoint. The graduate faculty needs a chance to think about it.
- N. Norman - we don't need to take action today. I have heard from only a small number of people about this.
- J. Anderson I share some doubts with E. Hermanowicz and S. Spence, but I agree with B. Wolkow in that it could attract good students. It would need to be carefully policed and only for the very rare student. But I do see the worry that graduate students may react badly to undergrads in the program.
- E. Hermanowicz - there have been positives to having an undergraduate in a seminar, but some breaking too.
- C. Platter - this is rare in seminars, but commonplace in split-level courses.
- S. Spence - it still suggests that this person is at a 4000 level
- J. Klein - surely everyone has had graduate students who aren't ready for graduate coursework.
- N. Norman - let's table this for now and think about it. It is entirely a departmental decision and does not need to be approved by anyone else

Tasks for Fall semester (chart)

- Continue work on revising the departmental assessment plan
- Finalize paperwork and submit request to reorganize the undergraduate majors to mirror

The graduate program (done)

Tasks for Spring Semester

- Finalize revisions to the departmental assessment plan
- Review of Rome Program

New Business, Announcements from the Floor

Calendar Reminders

- Talks by Clayton Schroer and Jen Stanull, Friday, 30 November, 4:30, MLC 207
- Departmental holiday lunch, 5 December 2012, noon, Alexander Room (see JoAnn about food).

- Next faculty meeting: Wednesday, 23 January 2013, Park 22, 12:20 pm
- Agenda items due to Naomi: Friday, 18 January

* : additional material distributed separately at the meeting

Dear Colleagues,

To follow up on my comments at Wednesday's meeting, here's the link to UGA's Non-discrimination and Anti-Harassment (NDAH) policy:

<http://eoo.uga.edu/policies/NDAH-Policy.html> . To quote from the preamble:

The University of Georgia ("the University") is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents' policy, and University policy, the University prohibits any member of the faculty, staff, administration, student body, volunteers or visitors to campus, whether they be guests, patrons, independent contractors, or clients, from harassing and/or discriminating against any other member of the University community because of that person's race, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, disabled status, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. Incidents of harassment and discrimination will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University.

Please take time to review the policy with your faculty colleagues at an upcoming faculty meeting.

Alan

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Greetings,

I am contacting you as a representative of UNC Chapel Hill's Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. We are hosting, for the first time, an undergraduate Classics conference at UNC Chapel Hill that will take place on the April 6-7, 2013. Please, if you could be so kind, share this email with your colleagues and with students who might be interested in attending and participating in the conference. Please submit an abstract of 500 words or less to uncetasigmaphi@gmail.com by **January 15, 2013**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by February 15, 2013. Along with abstracts, students should send the following information: name, institution, title of paper, and major. Papers in all aspects of Classical Studies are welcome. Please bear in mind, that presentations are limited to no more than a fifteen minute time-span. Housing can be arranged for any guests coming from more than an hour away. Regarding any meals, more information will be sent out with the notifications of acceptance. A flyer is attached to this post with all the relevant information. Please feel free to contact me at acap@live.unc.edu with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Alex Caprara