Minutes of the CHAS Senate
November 4, 2013
3:30 p.m., Dean’s Conference Room, CAC

Members present: Bohnenkamp (Communication Sciences & Disorders), Brand (Communication Studies), Doely (Art), Fritch (Associate Dean), Glockner (Theater), Greenhalgh (Technology), Heinzel (Earth Science), Manfredi (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Morgan (Physics and Science Education), Poleksić (Computer Science), Tamplin (Biology), Wood (Mathematics).

Chair Heinzel called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
1. Welcome
2. Announcements
   a. Chair Heinzel: According to our bylaws, we are supposed to meet every 1st and 3rd week of each month, to provide opportunity for departments to bring forward items for discussion.
   b. Associate Dean Fritch: Department heads have been reminded of the national conference on undergraduate research; application deadline is November 15. Please send information to Fritch with the student name and a brief description of the research.
3. Bohnenkamp moved to accept the October 21 minutes; Tamplin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Old business
   a. Awards: To date, no uniform structure for college faculty awards has been constructed. Glockner commented that faculty awards are important, but perhaps we’re not at the point where we can combine the awards. Manfredi suggested that we keep the award structure unchanged. Wood stated that the counter-argument is that this keeps the college functioning as two separate bodies. There was some discussion of having three awards in each of the (i) natural sciences and (ii) humanities and fine arts, and having department heads responsible for selecting the winners; there was general agreement to this idea. Heinzel will investigate (a) any documents pertaining to administration of the existing awards that may need editing, and (b) having this item brought up for discussion with the department heads.
   b. Commencement attendance “encouragement” resolution: Doely commented that several colleagues mentioned the difficulty of acquiring the academic apparel. One colleague questioned whether or not departments could “own” apparel to ease this problem. Manfredi pointed out that former President Koob made academic apparel available after previous poor faculty attendance; in his view, the system in general works well now, excepting third-party pickup locations. (Fritch noted that problems occurred at the president’s installation.) Wood noted complaints from colleagues about the smaller venue. Manfredi stated that commencement recruitment should be taken care of at the department level; Doely and Bohnenkamp agreed. Fritch questioned whether there were other reasons for poor attendance and asked whether there were other things the university could do to improve participation, such as provide parking near the ceremony. Poleksić commented that we as senators could facilitate reminders to the department. Tamplin polled biology and heard reasons for not attending, such as childcare issues or too much hassle with attendance. Tamplin also noted the date for RSVPs is too early. Glockner noted that attendance is often driven by which students are graduating and the relationships you’ve developed. Bohnenkamp suggested that the NI Student Government be asked to actively recruit faculty. Tamplin suggested the
university have a supply of generic academic apparel available for last minute attendees. Heinzel will speak to the Student Government (or another student body) and department heads to encourage their leadership in recruitment of faculty participation.

c. Wood asked about the old business of the **out-of-department cognate course requirement** for University Bachelor of Science degrees. (This discussion was initiated from the Physics department; consultation was sought from other affected departments on their views of eliminating this requirement.) Tamplin noted that Biology agrees with eliminating this requirement. Manfredi asked for clarification, and noted that this used to be an accreditation issue for Chemistry and Biochemistry, but no longer is. Morgan stated that, if there are no objections, Physics will forward a request to the University Curriculum Committee to consider the matter, since the requirement is part of the University catalog.

5. New business

a. There are new curriculum requests filtering through the system. Heinzel will investigate the requests, as well as the option of voting over the issues via email.

6. Glockner moved to adjourn; Wood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The senate adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Morgan

CHAS Senate Secretary