

Department of History
Minutes
3/26/2008

Present: Mr. Clark, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Foster, Mr. Giffin, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Land, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Olsen, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Schneirov, Ms. Skinner, Mr. Stofferahn

Absent: Ms. Chirhart

Meeting called to order at 3:15 PM.

Unanimous approval of minutes from 1/23/2008 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. By-laws review committee consists of Mr. Olsen, Ms. Foster, Ms. Skinner, and Mr. Fischer.
2. The 20th-Century Scholars meeting with promising high school students will be held Sat., April 26.
3. Ms. Chirhart has received a Harry Golden visiting scholar grant from University of North Carolina at Charlotte for the 2008-2009 academic year.
4. Mr. Giffin's sabbatical for spring 2009 was approved by the administration. He will also be receiving the prestigious ISU Presidential Medal (to be awarded April 16).
5. Phi Alpha Theta conference is on April 5.
6. War and Film series is held on Monday nights. Don Layton, professor emeritus, and Ms. Chirhart will be among the presenters in the series.

NEW BUSINESS

Given the importance of the matter and the schedules of some attending, the New Business was moved up from the order on the agenda.

The department discussed the possibility of the merger of African and African-American Studies(AFRI) with History. Mr. Olsen noted that Dean Sauer supported the idea of the History major and AFRI major united in one department, and that the mode of merging should be integrative. The most possible scenario is that AFRI will have its own Program Committee (deciding curriculum, assessment, and programming). The Dept. Name will still be "Department of History." There will be a separate degree code for AFRI, as well as separate budgets (no History funds will be reassigned to AFRI). History will have to manage promotion and tenure for faculty members appointed as "Assistant Professor of African and African American

Studies,” including overseeing an interdisciplinary aspect of this. AFRI faculty, students, and other interested parties have, so far, raised no objections to this arrangement; they had not been a good fit for the new and developing Interdisciplinary Studies entity and many people were opposed to being placed in that unit. No viable alternatives for AFRI currently exist. Ultimately, there will be 2-3 tenure-track faculty in AFRI; there is currently one as of fall 2008. Mr. Hawkins questioned the character of the interdisciplinary hiring and promotion. Mr. Hunter and Ms. Skinner raised concerns about the impact on future history hiring lines, particularly losing the possibility of hiring an Asian specialist in lieu of faculty for AFRI. In response to a question by Mr. Giffin on cross-listed courses, Mr. Olsen noted nothing would change, although the university is working to phase out this policy. Mr. Schneirov raised concerns over History management of AFRI curriculum, particularly maintaining rigorous standards. The final approval of the merger is charted for approval at the College and University levels in fall 2008. Mr. Olsen solicited further comments and suggestions from the faculty in the interim. Mr. Olsen reiterated his belief that this proposal should, and could only go forward with the approval of the History faculty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. ASSESSMENT Committee: Mr. Nichols for Assessment. Committee noted ongoing work on assessing the 2007 cohort of graduates and deciding the award recipients for this year.
2. BUDGET Committee: nothing to report from committee. Mr. Olsen noted that approximately \$1000 was spent to acquire requested DVDs for faculty and that we will keep a list of the DVDs that are available within the Department.
3. CURRICULUM Committee: Mr. Hawkins for Curriculum noted that they are working on the comprehensive Gen-Ed statement on historical studies. He distributed an updated course rotation schedule for the next three years.
4. GRADUATE Committee: Mr. Giffin for the Graduate Committee distributed proposal for the revised MA/MS program that eliminates the degree code for Labor and Reform Movements and offers it as a concentration. Also, the graduate committee recommended dropping the requirement for written comprehensive exams. Motion to approve by Mr. Land, seconded by Mr. Hunter. Vote was 13-0-0.

Additionally, recommended guidelines for teaching 500-level courses were distributed, and slight changes in the wording adopted. These recommendations will be available to graduate students and faculty in the handout given to graduate students each fall.

Graduate admissions have increased to about 8-9 new students enrolling in the fall.

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Mr. Hunter noted that a viable student has not yet been found for the exchange program with University of Malta for Spring Semester 2009. It was agreed to push the program hard at the beginning of the fall 2008 semester and complete the search then.

2. Mr. Olsen distributed the fall 2008 teaching schedule.

3. Mr. Olsen noted the progress of the Gen Ed task force and the redefinition of Gen Ed requirements as “Foundations.” Historical Studies remains an independent component of the requirements. The faculty was encouraged to attend the open forums on Gen Ed in April.

4. Mr. Olsen noted that the college approval of HIST 113 was contingent on the development of on-line sections for it. It is likely that the university will be making increasing demands for on-line courses. HIST 113 is also experiencing difficulties connected with its title “Topics,” and other possibilities need to be considered.

Meeting adjourned by Mr. Olsen at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Skinner