

Approved December 3, 2008

**Indiana State University
Department of History
Department Meeting
August. 27, 2008, 3:15 p.m.**

Present: Olsen, Chirhart, Clark, Fischer, Foster, Giffin, Hawkins, Land, Nichols, Phillips, Schneirov, Skinner, Stofferahn

Absent: Hunter

Meeting called to order, 3:15 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from April 30 meeting approved unanimously.

Announcements:

- Gen Ed Task Force – the latest news was that there may be more open forums on the new curriculum, so approval will be delayed. The proposal will not be submitted to faculty governance before November.
- Groupwise e-mail will be ending in January and nothing will automatically be transferred from that server. Each faculty member must save their own emails prior to the conversion. Call 2910 for assistance and instructions.
- The link-up for printing from the copy machine is now possible to all faculty. Faculty members who are interested should contact x2910 to set-up getting connected.
- Enrolled as History majors in fall 2008: 76 undergraduates and 22 graduate students
- Overall, ISU's enrollments are up 5 percent. This is less than predicted, as there are many no-shows. Still, overall positive growth. The dorms are nearly full.
- Hunter will update us on University of Malta exchange status via e-mail.
- ISU has made note of the Research Center for Local History and Culture as an important accomplishment.
- Speakers: We received budget approval for \$1000, which will cover two or three speakers. An additional \$500 was approved for AFRI, with a speaker scheduled for Ms. Chirhart's History of the South.
- Call for faculty to submit requests for conference travel to the Budget Committee.
- Recommendation to carry out fall get-together in same manner as last year (an evening dinner mostly for adults, the following morning for adults and children at the park).

Committee Reports:

List of committee assignments distributed. Approved 13-0-0. General comment that the by-laws update is still in the works but will be completed this semester.

- **Assessment** – NCA review is still on, and the work of this committee is critical. Mr. Nichols will remain chair; two more faculty members have been added to this committee

(now at five) to facilitate the workload for both undergraduate and graduate assessment.

- **Budget** – call for faculty to submit funding requests ASAP. Overall funds available to faculty have been increased to nearly \$13,000.
- **Curriculum** – a priority for this committee will be to review the web-site. Now the catalog is available as ACALOG. Work needs to be done in order to make the whole Department web-site easier to navigate and possibly with more features to inform students about opportunities in the Department and for history majors. Also, ACALOG is, in some ways, more user-friendly and can be used as an important recruiting and informational tool. The Department should make sure that all mistakes in ACALOG are corrected and think of creative ways to make the web-site more appealing. Mr. Fischer raised the question of who would be responsible for doing the actual web-editing. Discussion ensued, noting that all of the time-consuming work of monitoring and updating the web site should not go to Carolyn, and that we may need to go outside the department for web tech assistance.
- **Graduate** – The Graduate School is moving to DARS as quickly as possible (for fall 2008 for at least two “pilot” departments), which should ease the administrative process. A new issue was raised on the problem of high school teachers with no history master’s degree (but with Masters of Ed) offering courses in the College Challenge program for ISU credit. They are given the status of “adjunct” ISU faculty when they teach this course. Mr. Olsen has stood his ground against allowing this when the teachers do not hold a history master’s degree. Most of them do not. The question falling to the department now is: should we propose a certificate program for these teachers? Based on the model of the Ms Ed CIMT program, this would require five courses at the graduate level. Discussion ensued without resolution. This discussion will continue, and should be considered by the Graduate Committee in detail.

Old Business:

- Proposal for merging the African and African American Studies program into the History Department: the written proposal distributed by e-mail over the summer was discussed. As things stand now, the AFRI faculty are satisfied with the proposal. Mr. Nichols brought up potential concerns of the CAS Faculty Council on some of the language that might be problematic for approval, as well as the possible need to get approval from the English faculty who are also heavily involved in the program. Discussion ensued, particularly on the role of the program committee and the ultimate responsibilities of the history faculty. The vote to approve the proposal pending some tweaking of the language passed 13-0-0.

New Business:

- Faculty lines: none will be given in the foreseeable future to the History Department. There are more than 50 empty positions in the College. History enrollments are down slightly, although majors are steady or up slightly. Currently only 65 percent of the

students enrolled in History classes (including the CEP students) have courses from tenured and tenure-track faculty. Thirty-five percent are taught by adjuncts (overall, 11 percent are in the prison program).

- Department needs to plan creatively to manage our curriculum and enrollments for the coming few years, assuming no new TT faculty will be added to the Department.

Meeting adjourned, 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Skinner