

Minutes of the Meeting
of the Department of History
August 23, 2006

Those present: Mr. Olsen chair; Mr. Clark, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Foster, Mr. Giffin, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Land, Mr. Nichols, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Schneirov, Ms. Shoemaker, Ms. Skinner, Mr. Stofferahn.

Those absent: Ms. Chirhart (on leave).

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 3:20 PM.

He asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2006. Mr. Hunter so moved; Mr. Hawkins seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements

Deadlines for the fall semester have been posted by the College of Arts and Sciences. Carolyn will post them on the department calendar. Mr. Olsen said he would like to have work on promotions and retention completed by the end of the first semester, since he will be going on leave for the spring semester.

Mr. Olsen needs course requests for summer and fall 2007 by November 1.

Only one request has been made so far for money from our honoraria fund. Send other requests to Mr. Olsen.

We have about \$1100.00 to spend on distance-related education projects. Various suggestions were made. Mr. Olsen encouraged the submission of others.

Ms. Greenwalt has created a Groupwise calendar for the department. Mr. Olsen distributed instructions for accessing the calendar.

Mr. Clark has been named interim coordinator for Social Science Education.

The dean's fall address is to be on Wednesday, September 6. The dean will describe his plans for reorganization at that time.

Mr. Olsen commented on figures for fall enrollment. The History department is down about 300 compared to 2005. From its peak in 2001, it is down about 30%. The prison enrollment is down about 100 students. Our enrollment in General Education is much lower. We have about 75 majors.

The chances of replacing Mr. Fish appear slim. Administrators will consider factors such as enrollment and the number of tenure-track faculty we currently have.

The college is considering requiring all students in its jurisdiction to complete a minor as well as a major. Currently, fewer than 20% of graduates declare a minor.

Mr. Olsen asked for approval of committee assignments for the 2006-2007 academic year. Ms. Foster so moved; Mr. Land seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no committee reports.

Mr. Olsen said that he could not yet say definitely who would be acting chair in Spring 2007, although he thought Mr. Giffin would agree to serve.

The Budget committee needs to meet immediately to approve travel requests. Mr. Olsen asked that faculty submit additional requests to Mr. Hawkins as soon as possible, even without exact amounts requested. Money can be encumbered for use after the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Land is to be our library representative this year. He asked about purchase of the DVD set of "Eyes on the Prize." There was general agreement that this should be done. The department has about \$4700 in library budget for this academic year. Mr. Land will email department members concerning correct procedure for ordering materials. He will divide funds among the faculty, but also reserve some for a discretionary fund.

Program Prioritization

Mr. Olsen discussed briefly the rankings the history department's programs received. He said that we may respond to the rankings. The dean has asked for bulleted points, rather than a formal narrative. Mr. Olsen's recommendation was that we not respond to the ranking of the BA/BS, which received a good rating. He suggested that the Labor specialization could be folded into the MA/MS category. He will respond to the ranking of the MA/MA program. Faculty members made suggestions, including:

- Addressing what impact loss of the program would have
- Stress that we serve the working people of the Wabash Valley
- Stress that getting rid of such programs will not help in recruitment of quality students

Request for East Asia Position

The department suggested several points to be made:

- That this is an economically dynamic region of the world
- That the position is important because of globalization
- Note ISU exchange agreements with institutions in Asia
- Mr. Fish has sent comments to be added.

Advising

We need another SSE advisor.

Ms. Foster is now an adviser for liberal arts majors. She will also represent the department on the CAS Council of Academic Advisors.

Spring 2007 schedule

Mr. Olsen noted that Interim Dean Sauer has indicated several objections to our schedule as it now stands. Mr. Olsen's inclination is not to make changes unless they are made imperative by the dean.

Center for Local Studies

Mr. Olsen noted that we have funds and equipment for this project that are available for use by the department.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca S. Shoemaker
Secretary for the Departmental meeting