

Indiana State University
Department of History
Minutes of the Departmental Meeting
September 2, 2009

Meeting called to order by Mr. Olsen at 3:01 p.m.

Present: Chirhart, Clark, Fischer, Foster, Giffin, Hawkins, Hunter, Land, Nichols, Olsen, Phillips, Ryan (Afri), Skinner, Stofferahn.

Absent: Schneirov

Approval of Minutes from the May 6, 2009 meeting. Mr. Hunter moved approval, Ms. Skinner seconded. Approved unanimously.

Guest Announcement:

Professor Emeritus Clokey briefed the department regarding his 2-year project researching and writing a new history of Indiana State University. He urged that professors consider tasking undergraduates and graduate students with research topics using the archives and history of ISU. One graduate student (on assistantship) has been assigned to assist in the project, and Mr. Clokey informed the department of that student's typical tasks.

Announcements:

Mr. Hunter noted that Tom Rosnowski was speaking to his methods class and invited faculty to attend.

Mr. Olsen noted that some faculty computers had not been properly tagged as ISU property and that this problem was being addressed.

Mr. Olsen informed the faculty that Ms. Greenwalt would be gone several Fridays due to accumulated vacation time, but that Ms. Knoblett would still be available.

Approval of Committees:

Mr. Hunter moved to approve departmental committees as presently composed. Mr. Giffin seconded. Composition of committees approved as distributed, 14-0-0.

Mr. Olsen sought clarification that Mr. Land still performed the library liaison duties and sought affirmation by the faculty. Faculty unanimously affirmed their approval of his continued duties.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee

Ms. Chirhart reported that the department had approximately \$11,000 for this year, and that she still sought paperwork from some individuals requesting funds. She further noted those for whom the committee had complete information.

Ms. Chirhart reminded the department of the necessity of proper documentation and procedures both before and after a trip. She further reminded the department about the 30-day window for completing the paperwork after a trip and that a working deadline should rather be 10 days to ease the burden on Ms. Greenwalt.

No other committees reported.

New Business:

College Challenge

Mr. Olsen briefed the department on the push for dual credit classes (high school courses counting for college credit) between ISU and many high schools. This is a state-wide program, whereby individual institutions work out arrangements with individual high schools on how to implement dual credit courses. U. S. history is seen as a popular choice for many. The ISU administration sees this as a definite recruiting tool. At present a HS teacher must have a masters in history (just like an adjunct) to teach such course. Tom Steiger has been appointed ISU's coordinator on College Challenge and is proposing tiered stages for teachers to qualify to teach such course—e.g., provisionally qualified if enrolled in master's level course.

Foundational Studies (FS)

Mr. Olsen then turned to the main business of discussing what courses the department wished to put forth as foundational studies and in which categories this would happen.

Mr. Olsen presented a brief overview of the FS program. He noted that whatever courses and faculty teach in FS courses that we were giving up a measure of control (syllabi review, student evaluations viewed by FS coordinator and FS council, frequency at the 300-level as to when courses are taught, and possibly other factors).

Mr. Olsen circulated a handout with suggestions as to which DOH courses would be submitted and in which categories.

Discussion ensued on the style of the FS course narrative and sample syllabi to be submitted (for example that syllabi were to explain how Historical Studies (HS) and FS goals were being met).

Ms. Foster noted that while syllabi could be generic, they may contain footnotes noting differences owing to size of the class in types of assignments (for example).

Mr. Stofferahn and Ms. Skinner discussed their concerns regarding placing HIST 101 outside the HS category and in the “ (GD)” category, noting that it certainly could fit, but wondering whether or they would have to teach differently (i.e., in an interdisciplinary fashion).

Mr. Olsen responded that he had been informed by the FS coordinator that this would not be the case, and that the FS Council and Coordinator actually had asked that 101 and 102 be considered for the Global Diversity (GD) category as is.

Ms. Foster introduced the concept of rethinking our history surveys, making them true intros for our related majors (i.e. more rigorous), while submitting topical courses for FS studies, where faculty could offer interesting and engaging courses.

Mr. Fischer brought up concerns that the FS council may not like a HIST 113, since it may be perceived as a “black box” into which a department could fit whatever they wished with little control from a FS coordinator.

Mr. Land asked if FS council may favor a “cultural literacy” idea

Mr. Olsen answered that trends were going against such ideas in the FS philosophy. He then offered worries about being “transfer friendly” with regard to our surveys. We would still have to accept such credits.

Mr. Stofferahn pondered how our teaching lives may change if the DOH went with Ms. Foster’s proposal (113/114 topics model).

Mr. Olsen offered that it need not necessarily change that much, and that we could adapt.

Mr. Nichols asked how many departments would likely offer (GD) courses.

Mr. Olsen offered his informed guess (5 counting DOH).

Mr. Nichols noted that this would be an obvious way to increase numbers of students for the DOH.

Mr. Olsen cautioned that while declining enrollments may be a concern, that it should not necessarily be a deciding factor for us.

Ms. Foster proposed another alternative idea of offering a HIST 114 in GD and a one semester World and American civilization course along with 113 in HS, again preserving our surveys for related majors.

Mr. Olsen noted that many other majors do require our surveys.

Mr. Hunter cautioned that no one knows how all this will “shake out” and that we should do what benefits the department.

Mr. Giffin supported Mr. Hunter’s comments noting how many iterations of FS there had been over the years.

Mr. Olsen argued that we should ponder proposed changes, but that we could not delay too long.

Ms. Foster offered a final point on her proposal, that letting faculty teach interesting topical courses would excite both students and faculty.

Mr. Hawkins requested that Ms. Foster type up an outline of her proposals along with arguments for such a re-organization, to which suggestion Ms. Foster consented.

Mr. Olsen passed out copies of the catalog copy and HIST graduate and undergraduate major curriculum sheets.

Mr. Olsen then noted that the plan was to offer students the choice to switch to the new FS program in fall 2010. He also informed us that transfer questions regarding HS category would no longer come to the DOH, but to the FS council.

Mr. Fischer noted that we may immediately need more HIST 113 offerings.

Mr. Olsen requested a vigorous email exchange discussing all the proposed ideas and a meeting the following week in order to act expeditiously toward the looming deadlines.

Discussion ensued on how to rank our courses submitted in each category with the following consensus:

Historical Studies: 1). 113 2). 201 3). 202 4) 102
Global Diversity 1). 101

Mr. Olsen called for drafts of narrative and syllabi within a couple of weeks and recommended that we suspend all other committee work for a through October as we shape these submissions.

Faculty Council

Mr. Land mentioned that the Provost planned to attend Faculty Council for feedback and input on the Dean's search.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36.

Respectfully submitted: Daniel A. Clark