Coles College Faculty Council Minutes: September 9, 2009

Present: Debbie Lester, Don Sab barese, James Tompkins, Susan Carley, Ken Harmon

Absent: Bruce Clements, Samia Siha, Randy Stuart (excused)

The meeting convened at 3:30. Susan Carley gave a brief history of the Coles CFC. Each person then offered their respective views of the role of the CFC, and all seemed to be in agreement about its purpose and function.

Dean Harmon spoke for a short time on his interest in being involved with the CFC and attending CFC meetings on a regular basis. Council members agreed that this was a good suggestion and welcomed him as a regular, non-voting participant.

Nominations were solicited for the position of CFC Chair for the 2009-2010 period. J. Tompkins recommended that S. Carley continue in this role. No other nominations were offered, and S. Carley agreed to continue on as Chair.

The role of recording secretary was also discussed. The Council agreed that the position would either be rotated on an alphabetical basis according to last name or that a departmental administrative assistant might be asked to take minutes as some currently do for their departments when faculty meetings are held.

Council members agreed to reserve 3:30-4:45 PM on the first Wednesday of each month for future meetings. Meetings will convene on an as-needed monthly basis. Roberts Rules of Order will be used for procedural purposes when an issue requiring a vote is involved.

Faculty Ambassador Initiative

S. Carley introduced a proposal from Govind Hariharan involving the development of a Coles College Faculty Ambassador Program. She had been asked by Associate Dean Kat Schwaig to bring this to the attention of the CFC to determine whether this would be an appropriate committee to manage the ambassador selection process. After some discussion, Council members agreed that the Coles Research and Development Committee (RDC) might be a more appropriate choice, since they currently oversee other faculty awards. D. Lester raised the issue of whether the RDC’s focus on the promotion of research makes them the best choice. Council members concurred and then agreed to an alternative approach whereby department chairs would nominate two individuals to the CFC each selection cycle, and the CFC would discuss and make a final recommendation.

Online BBA Standing Committee

S. Carley informed the Council of a recent decision by K. Harmon, K. Schwaig, and Tim Blumentritt to form a standing Online BBA Committee to work with Justin Cochran, the new Online BBA Director. J. Cochran will chair the committee and K. Schwaig will serve as an ex-officio member. Initial members of the committee from each department have been have contacted to determine their willingness to serve on the committee.

Due to this change, the College Bylaws will need to be updated after the Online BBA Committee has established their own committee bylaws. This will need to be done by the end of this academic year.

Status of Open Meeting Laws

S. Carley announced that Kurt Schulzke had recently contacted her to discuss the accuracy of the following statement in the Coles College Committee Bylaws: “University Counsel has determined that
the Georgia Open Meetings Law is not applicable to college committee sessions. “K. Schulzke believes that KSU Counsel Flora Devine has determined that the Law is indeed applicable.

At the suggestion of K. Harmon, Council members decided that F. Devine should be directly contacted to resolve the issue.

Possible Changes in Study Abroad

K. Harmon announced that a number of people, including Coles International Director Luc Noiset, have expressed concern over the status of study abroad programs in the Coles College, as well as coordination with the KSU International Programs and Services Office. The proliferation of business programs competing for a limited pool of students and the many advertising posters appearing around the Burruss Building raise concerns about cannibalization of programs and ultimately to interfaculty competition and conflict. More strategic thinking and coordinated planning are needed.

K. Harmon asked whether the CFC would be willing to possibly work with L. Noiset to address these problems. The CFC agreed to invite L. Noiset to the next meeting to discuss the matter.

Class Scheduling Issues

S. Carley stated that some faculty were concerned with the “computerized” approach to class scheduling and proposed that the CFC address faculty perceptions of the approach to schedules currently in place. J. Tomkins and D. Sabbarase expressed surprise; each stated that the faculty in their department was consulted for input and preferences and that faculty were happy with the outcome. K. Harmon noted that while serving as the Director of the Accountancy Program, he always consulted faculty in an effort to match schedules with faculty problems/needs. It was also noted that the Management Department had a scheduling committee consisting of faculty.

D. Lester and S. Carley noted that things were done differently in the Department of Marketing and Professional Sales and that the faculty believed that a “computerized” approach was the reason for higher dissatisfaction with the scheduling process. K. Harmon explained how the process actually works under the direction of Jane Campbell. With the exception of a few core courses that must be taught at certain times, there is considerable latitude in how classes are scheduled. K. Harmon suggested that, based on the views expressed by most in attendance, the problem may be more localized. He recommended that D. Lester raise the issue with her respective DFC and seek resolution at that level. She agreed to do so.

Future Business

S. Carley asked that each member bring a copy of their departmental bylaws to the next meeting which is scheduled for October 7. The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Submitted by: Susan Carley/September 17, 2009