Council of Chairs Meeting Minutes

Humanities and Social Sciences Only

Thursday, April 17, 2014

245 Patterson Office Tower

9:00 – 10:30am

Digital humanities BA

The dean and department chairs had a discussion on creating a digital humanities BA which is interdisciplinary and reaches several areas of undergraduate humanities. The idea was accepted with great interest and a smaller committee will be convened to discuss many types of collaborations and options.

Area Studies

The college has several different geographical areas of study and they are housed in different departments. The dean would like to clarify and possibly partner with International Studies on how to best organize these area studies; possibly with a center or institute. The department chairs are requesting financial commitments on these programs. Another point of the discussion was allowing faculty outside the College to participate.

Asian studies grad certificate

Graduate programs would like for their students to be able to get certificates in specialties without lengthening their time to degree. The group discussed options and what each department requires. This topic will be discussed further at a retreat.

3+3 program with law school

The Dean explained the Law School is under pressure to recruit better students. The law school would like to partner with A&S departments to create a 3+3 program. Ideally, the students would receive a degree from a department in A&S and continue onto law school. History, Political Science, Philosophy, English and Sociology all showed great interests in working with the law school on this collaboration.

Other items

The dean had two updates

1. The Graduate School’s Dean, Jeannine Blackwell, is at the end of her term. The Provost and President are in the process of reappointing an interim.
2. One key aspect of the strategic plan is the section on graduate education. As of right now, is there is not a statement on shrinking PhD programs.