Department of World Languages and Literatures
Faculty Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 2, 2011
3:15p.m. to 4:45p.m.
NH 491F

Attendance
Jennifer Perlmutter (Leading), O Aliaj, P Basci, S Boero, R Chakerian, L Cosgriff,
A Dolidon, M Elliott, W Fischer, S Freels, Y Hanooosh, M Hickey, J Holt, I Jaén-Portillo,
G Kogan, L Kondilis, E Núñez, I Olsen, D Ostlund, J Pease, R Sanders, D Sbait, A Sedighi, C Sloan,
S Wadley, E Wagner, J Waruhiu, S Watanabe, P Wetzel, A Yariv, K Yoon

Announcements
- Josphat Waruhiu has been recommended by the Dean for promotion to Senior Instructor.
- Inger Olsen has been recommended by the Dean for promotion to Assistant Professor.
- Anousha Sedighi has been recommended by the Dean for indefinite tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.
- Silvia Boero was awarded a $7500 grant from the National American Italian Foundation to help promote and draw students to the program.
- Elise Wagner was awarded a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission for concurrent art exhibitions this spring of her encaustic paintings at galleries in Boston and Wilkes University. Catalogue coming soon.
- Bill Fischer is presenting for the WLL Assessment Committee at the CAE University Assessment Forum on 2/22 1:00PM – 3:00 PM in the SMSU Browsing Lounge.
- Speakeasy Valentine, thank-you and birthday cards are coming soon.

Budget Committee
Pat Wetzel briefly reported on university budget issues and she will keep us updated.

D2L
D2L is the platform that will replace Blackboard as of spring 2011. All courses will have a shell automatically set up for them so that you do not need to request one through the department scheduler.

Jon Holt presented D2L’s many new and easy capabilities and functions to upload course content. All are encouraged to take the D2L training. Dzuan has been designated for special training and will be the department point person for any questions you might have.

International Cultural Service Program (ICSP)
Anna Gindlesperger presented faculty with program brochures and information. The ICSP is a scholarship program for international students dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding through firsthand knowledge and experience. Students receive a partial tuition remission in exchange for a certain number of hours of service. Faculty is encouraged to take advantage of ICSP’s services by inviting the students in the program to give cultural presentations in class or for any similar help you may need. Faculty is also encouraged to promote the Wednesday International Student Coffee Hour at the Multicultural Center to students.

Advising
Robert Mercer joined the meeting along with Anthony Lewis, the new CLAS adviser appointed to WLL, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Linguistics and Philosophy. Fourteen new academic advisers were hired to improve student support and success, six of whom are designated to CLAS. Advising is now mandatory for incoming freshman. Robert emphasized the need to hear from faculty on what advising can do to help WLL. Each section should communicate their advising needs to Jennifer in an email.

Anthony comes to us as a former tenure-track faculty member at Syracuse University and holds a Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics. Anthony is located in M317 SMSU. Keep Anthony in mind to handle any advising concerns that are out of your range such as general education, returning student, Capstone or Freshman Inquiry. Elise has been in regular communication with Anthony, will be distributing his business card to your boxes within the next week.
Searches
Spanish – the last candidate will be on campus February 7th. Please make every effort to attend the next candidate lecture from 2-3pm that day.
Arabic – search is underway; we anticipate the new faculty member begin September 2011.
Greek – the Modern Greek position posts this spring for an anticipated September 2012 start date.

CLAS
Isaacson, Miller was hired for the Dean search and met with chairs 2/2. The search firm is also holding two sessions for faculty input. Larry Wallack, Dean of College of Urban and Public Affairs is chairing the university’s search committee. Isaacson, Miller anticipates that 1/3 of the initial candidate pool will be internal to OUS and 2/3 of the pool will be external. Off-site interviews will be held in April and on-campus interviews the end of May. The new Dean would then begin in September.

Student Veterans
When students are deployed in the middle of the term, it is better to give them an “I” rather than an X. Many student veterans prefer to assimilate rather than self-identify. If we should have a student veteran who is struggling, however, we should be aware they can receive a $100/month ($1200/year) for tutoring from the government. They also receive a book stipend.

Last Mile Committee
The Last Mile Committee was formed to increase student success. They have two main charges: to reach out to students who have applied for their degree and somehow do not receive it and to engage in early intervention to prevent such a scenario. Almost all such students are in good academic standing with approximately 50% experiencing some financial hardship.

Student Issues
CLAS is working with Student Services to create a protocol for how to deal with student issues while still abiding by FERPA laws. Please talk to Jennifer early should you have any concerns or experience any problems so they can be properly addressed and documented. (Such incidents often occur in evening classes, but are not exclusive to them.) You and your students should always feel safe. If there is an immediate threat in your class, call Campus Security’s emergency number: (503)725-4404 and ask for an officer to come to your class.

Jonathan Pease raised the issue of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty among WLL students. Such matters should be brought to the attending of the Dean of Student Life. For Undergraduates, please see Robert Mercer and for Graduate Students, Grant Farr.

Evaluations
The WLL Evaluations are out-dated and require updating. Cynthia Sloan has been writing a new evaluation for the department. Wetzel mentioned that it would be nice to have an online evaluation system but the response rate has been proven poor both elsewhere and in our institution. Sanders made the point that the evaluation has to be easy and quickly done.

It was recommended that faculty try to leave twenty minutes at the end of class for students to fill out evaluations and to emphasize the importance of filling out the comments sections on the back.

Neuberger Hall Renovation
There is no funding as of yet for NH Renovation. When funding is received, the renovations will likely proceed in stages, with part of the building occupied at a time. Jennifer will report any updates.
Important Dates:

2/7/11 & 2/8/11 – External Reviewers on campus
2/9 Advisory Council Meeting (3:15-4:15)
2/15 Professional Travel Grant requests due for period June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012
2/15 Peer Review committee recommendations to chair
2/22 Dr. Fischer presents WLL at CAE University Assess. Forum 1-3 SMC Browsing Lounge
2/24 – 2/26 CineLit
2/25-2/26 Scandinavian Sampler (Cramer 171)
6/9 WLL Graduation and Award Reception (Browsing Lounge 4:00-6:00pm)
6/12 PSU commencement (Rose Garden Arena 2pm)