Department of World Languages and Literatures
Faculty Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 4, 2012
3:15p.m. to 4:45p.m.
NH 491F

Attendance

Announcements
• Anna Yatsenko and Olesya Kisselev both received Faculty Enhancement Grants. Kisselev also received a Professional Development Grant.
• Pat Wetzel received a grant from the Northeast Asia Council within the Association for Asian Studies.
• Larry Kominz published an article in French on Kabuki in a French exhibition catalog on Japanese theater costumes published through the Fondation Pierre Berget-Yves Saint Laurent. The exhibition runs through July 15th in Paris.
• Phi Sigma Iota is now open for new members, Robert Sanders circulated information and encouraged faculty to share with any interested students.
• Pelin reminded us that the department’s deadline for submitting curricular changes is April 16.
• Perlmutter is putting through a proposal for a Certificate in Hellenic Studies which will serve as the academic cornerstone of PSU’s new Hellenic Studies program. It will require two years of Ancient or Modern Greek (or proven proficiency) as well as 16 upper-division credits taken from an approved list. This certificate would be housed in WLL.

Budget
• Like the other units at PSU, CLAS has been asked to do an exercise in which it identifies 4% of cuts. CLAS is currently at 1.1 million in cuts, which represents half of what it needs to identify. WLL has been consulted about its priorities for next year.
• CLAS has its budget meeting on April 13th. We will receive the go-ahead for some fixed-term positions soon after.
• The concept of “rostered faculty” is dead. Any union-negotiated or earned pay increases (resulting from promotion, for instance) are now the unit’s responsibility to cover rather than the university’s; in our case, this is CLAS. Most immediately, this applies to the 3.1% pay increase received this year and that we will receive next.
• WLL expects to receive its finalized budget for AY12-13 in May.

FLL 199 Maggie Elliott
• FLL 199 is a two-credit course Maggie Elliott created for students to learn how to be successful in language learning.
• Elliott offered the course in winter term, and it covered grammar, how to identify language-specific resources, listening, etc.
• 13 students enrolled, most of whom found out about the course through professors and the course list. They represented a variety of languages.
• Overall, students were pleased with the class.
• Grading was based on exercises, participation, attendance and a project specific to their language of interest.
• Students suggested that the course be 4 credits or that we offer the same class with both a 2-and 4-credit class. The additional credits could stem from a “practical” day.
• Elliott recommended that FLL 199 be a summer class before students start language course work.
• Orientation would be a good way to promote the class and create enrollments. Elliott can easily anticipate up to 25-30 students enrolled.
• Ideally, WLL would find a way to track grades over time to show if the course is translating into better performance in language course.
AAUP President Mary King

- Mary King, former Chair of the Economics Department and President of AAUP joined the meeting to share information about the newest contract.
- King pointed out that the budget presented to the campus is curious in that it includes a lot of very unrealistic assumptions including no tuition or enrollment increases for 3 years.
- The recent negotiations gave everyone a raise, but many people’s salaries will not keep up with inflation after the freezes and furlough of the last biennium, particularly given the changes to the health care benefit.
- The University continues to demand that its faculty accomplish more with less, raising class sizes and cutting support.
- The question of what is the best way for faculty to get their point across to the administration was discussed. Striking remains an option; there are various other ways for AAUP to pressure the administration.
- Recent contract negotiations brought increases to Faculty Enhancement grant funds and Faculty Professional Travel Grant funds.
- AAUP was hoping to relieve faculty who earn less from the burden of paying 5% of healthcare premiums. In lieu of this, they received funding for a Professional Development Fund to support faculty activities for those who earn less than $50,000 per year. King encourages those eligible to apply.
- The distribution of 1% equity necessitated that all faculty compensation be compared to that of their professional peers across the country, with adjustments made to the pay of people whose salaries are the furthest out of alignment.
- Next year, tenure-track faculty will receive 1% merit pay, while fixed-term faculty will receive another 1% in equity raises and APs a 1% compression increase. King encourages departments to establish a process to allocate merit pay in their P & T guidelines that gives voice and input to faculty in its distribution.
- Southern Oregon University has its fixed-term faculty on three-year rolling contracts in which all faculty in good standing are always in their first year.
- AAUP membership dues and fair share dues cost the same, so there is no financial advantage for opting out of membership. Chairs can also be affiliated with AAUP.
- All are encouraged to attend the upcoming PSU AAUP Member Workshop: “Under Construction: A Better Contract and a Better PSU” Thursday, April 12 – 12:00-1:30 P.M. ASRC Room 620/630.

June departmental party
The spring WLL party will be at Steven Fuller’s house on Friday evening, June 8, 2012 following the John Eliot Allen teaching awards. If anyone is open to hosting this or the winter events in the future, please let Perlmutter know. We are open to suggestions.

Tenure-line-only meeting:
Perlmutter has had setting up this meeting as one of her action points for the year and would like faculty input for discussion topics. This could be a once-a-year meeting. Faculty did not indicate that such a meeting was essential at this point, but will give possible issues for discussion some thought.

Fixed-term-only meeting:
This would be a forum to discuss issues related specifically to fixed-term faculty. Faculty indicated they might like to meet in mid-May after they learn about their contracts for next year.

Open discussion
Please send Perlmutter an e-mail of any items you would like to discuss in future meetings. Our last meeting of the school year is June 6, 2012.
Important dates:

4/5  Indonesia at a Glance (batik! food! drink!) (1:00-3:00 p.m. in SMSU 298)
4/5  Antonio Vitti Italian-American culture talk (3:00-5:00 p.m. in NH 491F)
4/9  Chair notifies faculty eligible for P & T in 2012-13 by letter
4/12 Japanese Folk Music Concert (very lively! singing! dancing!) (Lincoln Recital Hall)
4/20 Persian music concert Mohsen Namjoo (political! Bob Dylan- like!) (6:00 p.m. in Lincoln Recital Hall)
4/23 Spring curriculum proposals due to CLAS; department deadline is 4/16
5/3  Intl’s Canadian Studies and WLL host American premiere of québécois film “À l’an vert,” (with subtitles!) (7:00 p.m. in Lincoln Recital Hall)
5/4  Faculty Professional Travel Grant apps due to ORSP at 5:00 p.m. (for travel beginning 8/1/12) Please submit by 5/2 to department chair for approval.
5/9-28 “Dangerous Liaisons” play at Venetian Theatre in Hillsboro
5/11-19 “Candide” by Portland Opera
5/11-6/2 World Premiere of Yuko Mishima’s hit play “The Black Lizard” Imago Theater
6/8  John Eliot Allen Teaching Awards
6/8  Department Party at Steven Fuller’s house
6/14 Department Graduation and Award Reception (4:00-6:00 p.m. in 238 SMSU)
6/17 PSU Graduation (faculty lunch 12:00; ceremony 2:00 p.m. Rose Garden Arena)