Foreign Languages and Literature Department Meeting

Neuberger Hall 393A
May 3, 2006


MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 3:15PM


Linda Absher attended the meeting to explain what budget cuts to the PSU library would mean to the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department (FLL). Formula for FLL budget cuts 7.5%. Mini budgets for all our language majors will maintain journal purchases. Monies available now are comparable to 2003 budget.

Prof. Patricia Wetzel reported on the Heritage Language Initiative. With eight languages provided the program is running $12,000.00 in the black for 2005-2006. She was cautious with this figure, but contends the program is succeeding as Self-Support. A Citizen’s Advisory board consisting of representatives from each language taught is being formed. Class numbers for the Heritage classes were discussed and agreed that 100, 200, and 300 level classes will all carry an H behind the number. Spanish instructors will watch Heritage classes to make sure they do not fill with non-native speakers.

Prof. Wetzel also reported on the Translation and Interpretation Certificate Program. This will begin as a Graduate program in Japanese, Russian and Spanish. Curriculum will consist of three terms of Linguistics, three terms in the target language, two terms of practicum, and a twelfth course perhaps in advanced grammar. Requirements for admissions discussed and could vary by language. Dr. Rosengrant has a meeting next week to discuss dedicated class space for this program.
Prof. William Fischer reported on Technology within the FLL Department. He believes the tech fee students pay have been a good idea. These monies have purchased a Digital Camera, Video Camera, and Document Camera for department use. Prof. Fischer also proposes purchasing another Video camera with memory card and a VHS to DVD Dubbing machine. This Dubbing machine will make it possible to use laptops for most video need. Prof. Perlmutter bought up foreign VHS zonal concerns; Prof. Fischer will investigate this issue before purchasing the machine. He also suggests faculty bringing in the VHS tapes they use for classes and making a back-up copy of the tape on DVD. Prof. Fischer would also like tech funds to be used in Cultural Enrichment. He envisions in the future a big screen outside the FLL department streaming video of different cultures.

Prof. Suwako Watanabe reported on Assessment. The committee meeting will be May 17 to review and discuss what has been done in the past. The committee will also discuss what assessments will be completed next year.

Prof. Robert Sanders announced the initiation of new member of Phi Sigma Iota will be held on June 2, 2:00-4:00 pm. Kate Regan from Pacific University will show The Sephardic Legacy of Segovia, Spain: Pentimento of the Past, with discussion to follow. He reminded everyone that the deadline for applications is May 12th.

Sheryl Hollatz-Wisely from the Career Center is planning a workshop on Career Planning, GRE’s and Graduate applications preparation on May 25, 3:30-4:30pm, location TBA. Faculty questioned if this could be taped and made available to stream on our website.

Galina Kogan announced that the Russian Club will meet Thursday evening, May 4th, with entertainment being provided by the accordionist, Leonid Nosor.

Prof. Oscar Fernandez announced a showing of the film, El espiritu de la colmena, (Spirit of the Beehive) Friday evening May 5th. This kicks off the Cine Lit 2007 Conference.

Prof. Anousha Sedighi announced a Persian Gala will take place Saturday evening May 6th in Hoffman Hall. Tickets are $45.00. Elena Sukhina will perform a Flamenco dance.

Manya Wubbold announced the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will have a fundraising event for her Guatemala Project this weekend.

Coming Attractions:

May 17  Advisory Council, 3:15, AV room
June 7  Department Meeting 3:15
June 12  Farewell to Fulbright Scholars, and International Staff, FLL 3:00-5:00 pm
June 17  Commencement
MEETING ADJOURNED 4:30 pm