

Minutes of Rules Committee Meeting on Friday, May 23, 2003 at 9am.

Present: Roland Chilton (chair), Ernie May, Dick Bogartz, Jerry Mileur, Jenny Spencer, Brian O'Connor

Guests: Sara Lennox, Daphne Patai, Robert Sullivan

Minutes were approved.

Ernie May briefed the Committee on the situation, as he understood it, in the language departments. Ernie further reminded people of the Program and Budget Council meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 11am in the Campus Center.

Profs. Lennox, Sullivan, and Patai reported on new developments in CHFA regarding the new Federation of Language departments. The chairs of the Federation, under pressure from the Dean, had proposed making the Federation a Division. The Provost, however, has indicated that Division is an inappropriate term and counter-proposed "Department of Departments." At the last informational meeting of faculty, the group voted to go forward with this idea to protect themselves. Lennox, Sullivan, and Patai reported that the process for this vote was problematic, that not all faculty had attended the meeting nor knew that a vote would be taken, and that it was not made clear whether the new title actually protected departments in any way. They also question the possibility of "Department of Departments" as a viable title for this unit. Underlying all these conversations is the fear that the merger will result in a downgrading of prestige for individual departments.

The Committee suggested that the group write its own merger plan so that something concrete could be discussed when the chair's merger plan was presented. The Rules Committee can take no action before an actual merger is proposed. The question of how many dissenters it takes to make the merger "hostile" was not decided.

Further business:

- Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept, in lieu of a full Senate vote, the BA Degree Program in Chemistry. It will be announced at the first Faculty Senate meeting of the fall.
- The proposal for two major tracks in French and Francophone studies was assigned to Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council.
- Brian O'Connor relayed John Cunningham's information that the ESL program currently enrolls only 6 students. We will bring this up at the next meeting with the Chancellor.
- Topics for next meeting with Lombardi on June 9:
 - ESL closing
 - Division Designation for Languages
 - "Administrative Bloat"
 - Status of Retrenchment

Submitted by,

Jenny Spencer