Dean’s Student Advisory Committee  
College of Arts and Sciences  
4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 23, 2011  
132 Ellison Hall  

MINUTES

Dean’s staff in attendance: Dean Paul B. Bell, Jr., Assistant Dean Rhonda Dean Kyncl, and Susan Bayliss

Dean Bell welcomed the students, then turned the meeting over to Tony Boese, SAC Chair. Tony introduced Karen Elmore, A&S International Programs Coordinator, who spoke about international opportunities through the College of Arts and Sciences.

Ms. Elmore described the A&S international programs initiative as being faculty-led and taught study abroad experiences available to all OU students, and its creation was prompted by President Boren’s call to increase the number of study abroad participants. Students can earn up to 6 credit hours, and there are some general education courses offered. She said the college would like to see more under-represented students apply, e.g., students from small towns, majors that don’t typically apply for study abroad, ethnic minorities, non-traditional students, etc. Last year 750 students participated.

Ms. Elmore asked the group for reasons why they would think that study abroad would not be an option for them. She then asked the group to not make assumptions about participation without first checking it out. In nearly every situation, study abroad can be made possible. Last year, 5 students, who are also parents, were able to make arrangements with their families for child care, so they could attend. Several students with learning disabilities also attended. Although it can be difficult for students in lock-step programs to study abroad, 4 Physics students participated in a trip to Germany and didn’t lose any credits. With respect to affordability, she pointed out that students with financial need can apply for the Presidential International Travel Fellowship that will cover 75% of the recipient’s airfare. Students who are US citizens and are the current recipient of a Federal Pell Grant can also apply for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Dean Bell added that students can approach their academic departments for possible funding, and, at the same time, he is working to get funds donated to expand departmental study abroad scholarships. Currently, there are no study abroad opportunities for graduate students.

In open discussion, one Anthropology student pointed out the fact that the Human Reproduction course that she is currently enrolled in was approved to count as a biological science; however, for some reason in Degree Navigator, the course won’t pull into the box that shows the general education completed courses for natural science. Rhonda Dean Kyncl replied that this has happened to several other students, and she would see about getting that rectified.  

**Update:** Per Rhonda Dean Kyncl, this student’s Degree Navigator record has been updated, so that the course is pulling in correctly as a natural science. The ultimate solution to this problem is for Degree Navigator to be reprogrammed to recognize these types of courses that have been newly approved, and, consequently, have not yet been through all the additional approval.
channels needed to be reflected in Degree Navigator. This process is underway and will be completed in the near future.

It was noted by another student that elevator 4 on the 2nd floor of the Physical Sciences building that services floors 1-4, has not been working for quite some time. 
**Update:** Per OU Facilities Management, because this elevator is a rare model, it was necessary to ship the drive unit for repair. They expect to have it back running within a couple of weeks.

One student found it difficult to discern which A&S events found on the A&S webpage were related to the FOCAS week activities. Dean Bell responded that the website is currently being revamped, and it will be more user-friendly when it is completed.

In response to an inquiry about undergraduate research opportunities on campus, Dean Bell recommended visiting the Undergraduate Research webpage at [http://www.ou.edu/undergraduate-research](http://www.ou.edu/undergraduate-research).

A student interested in applying for A&S student travel funding commented that the form was difficult to access. 
**Update:** Per Suzie Brewer, who works with the A&S student travel application process, the form was done in Microsoft Word '97, so students with Word '97, through the latest version, should be able to access the form. Nevertheless, she will be adding a PDF version.

A Political Science student expressed concern about the availability of faculty and the advisor when the department moves from Dale Hall Tower to Building 4, South Campus, due to needed restorations to Dale Hall Tower. 
**Update:** Per the Political Science department, the advisor will hold regular office hours and will be officing in the Engineering Lab, Rm. 208. Although faculty will be on south campus, students will be able to take the shuttle from Richards Hall to Building 4. The shuttle runs every 30 minutes. If students wish to drive to Building 4, a parking permit will not be required. The department has requested a room on main campus for which to use as a faculty-shared office, but the availability of space for this has not yet been determined. The department expects to move back in to Dale Hall Tower by Fall 2012.

Referencing a recent article in the The Oklahoma Daily, Dean Bell wanted the group to know, that despite certain statements that were made, the college does not intend to fire any faculty or cancel any major programs. He also wanted the group to know that some A&S departments have actually added new faculty positions. Although there will be fewer Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) positions next year, overall, there are more GTAs now than a few years ago.

With respect to the upcoming annual “Junior Days” events, hosted by Prospective Student Services, Dean Bell advised that this is a good opportunity for departments to hold open houses, in addition to participating in the majors’ fair held in the Union. Junior Days are scheduled for Friday, April 22, and Friday April 30.

Tony Boese adjourned the meeting.