

# **Agenda**

**Meeting of the Faculty Council  
September 28, 2012, 10:30 p.m., Dean's Conference Room, Pafford**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (of August 23 meeting – see web site)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of proposals for organizational schemas for Faculty Council (see Appendix 1)
2. Consideration of a proposed “College for a Day” (see Appendix 2)
3. Consideration of proposals for COSS’ *Studies in the Social Sciences* (see Appendix 3)

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of proposed course and program modifications (see web site)
2. Consideration of the proposed mission and goals statement for the College (see Appendix 4)
3. Consideration of procedures for awarding of Faculty Research Grants (see Appendix 5)
4. Consideration of procedures for theses and dissertations (see Appendix 6)
5. Consideration of a proposal for an associate degree (see Appendix 7)

## APPENDIX 1

### PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL SCHEMA FOR FACULTY COUNCIL

Being a small group tasked with a myriad of responsibilities, establishing some organizational structures may help us to meet our tasks without plunging into a cataclysmic time-sucking vortex. Since the *Bylaws* are (I think wisely) silent with respect to any internal organization, we are free to utilize whatever *ad hoc* designs we may choose to adopt. A classic schema is that old “division of labor” → reduce redundancies by eliminating the need for everyone to be doing everything. Listed here are 3 alternatives of how we could accomplish that.

#### ALTERNATIVE 1: THREE AD HOC COMMITTEES

Each committee has 3 members; each person has 1 committee assignment.

##### ***Academic Affairs***

Tasks: 1) receiving and evaluating all proposals for course and program modifications, additions and deletions; 2) developing proposals related to Honors programs; 3) developing proposals related to academic policies and academic advisement; 4) interfacing with the Undergraduate Programs, Graduate Programs, Honors Programs and Academic Policies committees of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

##### ***Planning***

Tasks: 1) developing any proposed changes to the *Bylaws*; 2) organizing, supervising and certifying the college-wide elections for Faculty Senate and Faculty Council in the Spring; 3) consulting with the Dean on matters of budget; 4) developing proposals with regard to issues of strategic planning; 5) developing proposals on matters of the library and other campus facilities and services; 6) developing proposals or matters of information technology and serve as the liaison with the office of ITS; 7) interfacing with the Rules, Budget, Strategic Planning, Technology and the Facilities and Services committees of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

##### ***Faculty Development***

Tasks: 1) developing proposals on matters of faculty development; 2) organizing, supervising and certifying the election of members to the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee in the Fall; 3) developing proposals regarding issues of tenure, promotion and post-tenure review; 4) developing any proposed changes to the *Policies and Procedures*; 5) developing proposals on matters of student affairs, alumni relations, and university relations; 6) interfacing with the Faculty Development, Student Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics and the University Relations committees of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

## **ALTERNATIVE 2: SIX AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Each committee has 3 members; each person has 2 committee assignments.

***Curriculum and Academic Policies.*** Tasks: 1) receiving and evaluating all proposals for course and program modifications, additions and deletions; 2) developing proposals related to Honors programs; 3) developing proposals related to academic policies; 4) interfacing with the Undergraduate Programs, Graduate Programs, Honors Programs and Academic Policies committees of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

***Rules and Elections.*** Tasks: 1) developing any proposed changes to the *Bylaws* and the *Policies and Procedures*; 2) organizing, supervising and certifying the election of members to the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee in the Fall, and the college-wide elections for Faculty Senate and Faculty Council in the Spring; 3) interfacing with the Rules Committee of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

***Budget and Planning.*** Tasks: 1) consulting with the Dean on matters of budget; 2) developing proposals with regard to issues of strategic planning; 3) interfacing with the Budget and Strategic Planning committees of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

***Faculty Development.*** Tasks: 1) developing proposals on all matters regarding faculty development; 2) developing proposals regarding issues of tenure, promotion and post-tenure review; 3) interfacing with the Faculty Development Committee of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

***Facilities, Services and Technology.*** Tasks: 1) developing proposals or matters of facilities and services; 2) developing proposals or matters of information technology and serve as the liaison with the office of ITS; 3) developing proposals or matters of the library; 4) interfacing with the Technology and the Facilities and Services committee of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

***Student, Alumni and Community Relations*** Tasks: 1) developing proposals on matters of student affairs; 2) developing proposals or matters of alumni relations; 3) developing proposals or matters of university relations; 4) interfacing with the Student Affairs, Intercollegiate Athletics and the University Relations committee of the Faculty Senate on all matters of interest to COSS.

## **ALTERNATIVE 3: AD HOC PORTFOLIOS**

Each member takes 1 portfolio, i.e., takes the responsibility to be the “expert” in that issue, the “go to” person for matters that arise in that purview. (The tasks involved in each would be similar to those described above.)

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| <b><i>1. Undergraduate Programs and Honors</i></b>   | <b><i>6. Budget</i></b>                                   |
| <b><i>2. Graduate Programs</i></b>                   | <b><i>7. Planning</i></b>                                 |
| <b><i>3. Academic Policies</i></b>                   | <b><i>8. Rules and elections</i></b>                      |
| <b><i>4. Faculty Development</i></b>                 | <b><i>9. Student, Alumni, and Community Relations</i></b> |
| <b><i>5. Facilities, Services and Technology</i></b> |   |

## APPENDIX 2

### COLLEGE FOR A DAY

*This was presented last August at the COSM opening meeting (it was likely a part of a STEM initiative). I wonder if we can do something like this – either on the same day next year or as part of a UWG Visitation Day (revising last point)*

#### College for a Day

- Saturday in February 2012
- Regional high-school juniors and seniors with science or math interests
- Students will sign up in advance for three classes
- Day will consist of five 1-hour periods – three classes, lunch, and a campus tour
- Possible class format: 30 min lecture, 30 min lab or similar activity

### APPENDIX 3

#### STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

*It seems to me that the COSS's Studies in the Social Sciences could become more than it currently seems to be. I would like us to consider recommendations for enhancing it. These may include the following ideas:*

1. Have a managing editor (either appointed by the faculty or the dean) whose role is to oversee its operation, while the editorship of each annual issue rotates among the departments (this is what it used to be in the 1980's). The annual editor would have full control of the content for that year.
2. Encourage but do not require interdisciplinarity? (e.g., more than one department involved in the same issue)
3. Encourage but do not require that UWG faculty serve as authors?

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Strategic Planning: MISSION STATEMENT FOR COSS**

*An initiative begun by the Dean to revise the COSS mission statement, and add to it a vision statement, goals, and action steps, linked to matrices of accountability and budgetary implications is currently underway. I would like us to provide counsel in this matter at each step in the process, beginning now. Listed below are three items: 1) our current COSS mission statement; 2) proposals generated by a workshop of September 7; 3) my own draft of possible proposed Action Steps.*

#### **Current Mission Statement:**

ARTICLE I of the COSS BYLAWS:

“THE MISSION OF THE COLLEGE

The College of Social Sciences, in accordance with the mission of the University of West Georgia, is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service in the interest of promoting the public good. The faculty, staff, and administration collaborate to provide a holistic learning experience that emphasizes lifelong learning, critical thinking, advanced written and oral communication skills, global awareness, and an appreciation for democratic values and social justice in the liberal arts tradition. The College aims to provide students with an understanding of contemporary and historical aspects of the various disciplines of the social sciences and the skills necessary for professional competence.”

The following is the proposal generated by the workshop held on September 7:

#### **Proposed Mission Statement:**

The College of Social Sciences is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service in the interest of promoting the public good. The College aims to provide students with an understanding of contemporary and historical aspects of the various disciplines of the social sciences and the skills necessary for professional competence.

#### **Proposed Vision Statement:**

COSS will be a recognized leader in promoting community engagement, creating a collaborative learning and research culture, attracting an increased proportion of talented and passionate students, and providing distinctive and sought out programs and graduates, leading to an expanded and diversified resource base.

#### **Proposed Goals:**

1. Recognition and public relations
2. Community engagement
3. Distinctive programs
4. Expanded and diversified resources
5. Collaborative culture of learning and research
6. Student success and graduate placement

# **COSS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

## **ACTION GOALS**

### **GOAL 1.**

**To support the academic mission of the university by providing programs that are noteworthy for their quality and distinctiveness**

#### **ACTION STEP 1.a.**

*To grow a collaborative culture of interdisciplinarity in teaching by:*

- *Developing interdisciplinary courses across departments within the college<sup>1</sup>*
- *Developing interdisciplinary courses with each of the other UWG colleges<sup>1</sup>*
- *Supporting an interdisciplinary course in the social sciences for the core (see Step 1.b.)<sup>2</sup>*

#### **ACTION STEP 1.b.**

*To contribute to the improvement of general education by revising the social science area of the core curriculum (Area E), by encouraging each department to innovatively design a course they would contribute to the core area that would best introduce the discipline to non-majors<sup>3,4</sup>*

#### **ACTION STEP 1.c.**

*To initiate an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree program in “Applied Social Science”*

#### **ACTION STEP 1.d.**

*To initiate “certificate programs” in specific social science areas and specialties, including those that would be a supplement to an undergraduate degree and those that would be an alternative to a degree program.*

#### **ACTION STEP 1.e.**

*To nurture particular “centers of excellence” to enhance UWG as a “destination university”*

#### **ACTIONS STEP 1.f.**

*To develop linkages to promote engagements between the academic programs and community affairs and institutions, especially in the local and Atlanta metro area.<sup>5</sup>*

### **GOAL 2:**

**To provide for the optimal conditions supportive of students’ learning**

#### **ACTION STEP 2.a.**

*To enhance support for student scholarship and research, including summer library privileges, funding for student research and travel, and assistantships for research and teaching.*

#### **ACTION STEP 2.b.**

*To augment opportunities for supervised internships and practica in community settings for academic credit.*

### **GOAL 3:**

#### **To provide for the optimal conditions supportive of faculty research and scholarship**

##### ACTIONS STEP 3.a.

*To establish a Human Science Research Institute*

##### ACTIONS STEP 3b.

*To enhance funding for faculty scholarship and research*

##### ACTION STEP 3.c.

*To grow a collaborative culture of interdisciplinarity in research*

### **GOAL4:**

#### **To develop relationships with philanthropic organizations and individuals to provide an enhanced resource base**

##### ACTION STEP 4.a.

*To enhance the recognition of the COSS by superior public relations.*

##### ACTION STEP 4.b.

*To cultivate relationships with the major funding sources in the Atlanta area.<sup>6</sup>*

##### ACTION STEP 4.c.

*To cultivate relationships with foundations that are known for having interests that dovetail with the distinctive programs of the College.<sup>7</sup>*

### **NOTES**

1. Such courses can be team-taught by two faculty from different departments, each offering a section, cross-listed with the other, at the same time in the same room.
2. This semester there are 10 XIDS courses offered for the core – and they are over 95% fully enrolled – yet none of them are the social science XIDS course (XIDS 2300: *Interdisciplinary Studies in the Social Sciences*)
3. This Core area has not been revised since the break-up of COAS and the creation of COSS and so does not reflect or utilize the strengths of this new arrangement of colleges. The Core now requires four courses, at least two and as many as three from departments outside the COSS. Of the list of elective courses students are allowed to choose one of, currently a majority (6 of 11) are taught by departments not in COSS (excluding the XIDS). Of the six departments in COSS, currently: 1 has one required course and one elective, 1 has two elective courses, 2 have one elective course, 2 have no courses
4. Encourage “edge” courses such as: leadership, sustainability, ecology, health, globalization, conflict resolution, consumerism.
5. The Atlanta area is a rich resource for governmental organizations (e.g., the state capital); federal offices (such as the CDC), noteworthy NGO’s (such as the Carter Center) and civil rights organizations.
6. These include such corporate headquarters as Coca-Cola, Home Depot, etc; foundations, such as those founded by Turner and Fonda; and philanthropically minded individuals such as Elton John, Arthur Blank, etc.
7. These include: the Fetzer Foundation, the Templeton Foundation, the Gates Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the Soros Foundation, etc.



## APPENDIX 5

### *FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS*

*Below is Provost Horvath's email to Dean McCandless, who passed it to me with the request that the Faculty Council make a determination on it. Following that is a proposal from Brad Yates regarding it.*

I am told that the Faculty Research Grants no longer exist. The president has agreed to provide \$50,000 and the provost's office will provide \$50,000 for next year. I will split the \$100,000 into two buckets. The first bucket of \$38,000 will be for in-house grants **administered by each of you in conjunction with a faculty review committee.** My office will keep \$2,000 to distribute if a faculty member needs a little boost or if you have more worthy projects than you have dollars to fund. Based on historical trends over the past five years, I have allocated the following shares:

COAH 29% = \$11,020

COE 5% = \$1900

SON 1% = \$380

RCOB 1% = \$380

COSM 51% = \$19,380

**COSS 13% = \$4940.**

The remaining \$60,000 will go for seed grants that Arlene's office will award. More about this will be forthcoming.

#### **and this response from Brad**

If the FC is going to handle this, I propose a request before we get started:

Should we ask Jane to match the dollar amount so that we have nearly 10K to distributed to our colleagues? The dollar amount from the Provost is a bit small, but I am grateful we have some of the monies.

My one reservation is that a request for dollars might hurt another initiative that is a higher priority. These grants are lower on the priority list, in my opinion.

## **APPENDIX 6**

### **PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR THESES AND DISSERTATIONS**

#### **A proposal submitted by the COSS Directors of Graduate Study**

The existing policy on the composition of thesis and dissertation committees mandates that they be comprised of active graduate faculty members from the University of West Georgia. Outside experts can be invited to serve on committees, but they are not officially members of the committee and will not chair the committee. Because of faculty turnover, temporary staffing shortages, increases in the number of online programs and classes, a more flexible approach to the formulation of thesis committees is required. We therefore propose modifying this rule to allow one member of a three-person dissertation or thesis committee to be selected from outside of the University of West Georgia.

This third reviewer must have a doctorate in a related field and must be willing to serve on the committee without compensation; third reviewers must provide consent in writing to this effect. Department chairs and thesis committee chairs will each be responsible for vetting and authorizing the selection of a third reviewer. Non-UWG committee members may participate in person or virtually through the use of audio or video communication technologies such as Skype.

## APPENDIX 7

### A PROPOSAL FOR COSS TO OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE IN APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE

To be too brief, there are at least two kinds of benefits this could provide: to the student and to the university. To the student, it would offer a new credential – but here I want to consider rather the benefits to the university, of which I see two. First, it offers the prospect of a new stream of potential students -- and ones that would be relatively less costly to serve. But mostly I'm thinking of another benefit to UWG: for almost no cost, this would powerfully enhance our RPG stats – indeed, it may well increase our graduation rate by 50% within a couple of years. Given: the major emphasis now placed on RPG stats by the state of Georgia; the likelihood that such an emphasis will continue and even increase; and UWG's relatively poor record in that regard, it seems to me that this would be a potentially significant contribution to these concerns. I'm sure you can appreciate how it would work: students who currently drop out after two years could instead leave with an AA degree and be counted instead as “graduates”; and, those at risk of dropping out would have an incentive to “hang in there” until they accumulate 60 credits (“just one more semester and I can leave with a degree!”).

Of course I am aware that such an extension of a senior college into the “turf” traditionally assigned to the two-year schools would likely be opposed by them, but hey, they've made it their own policy to aggressively blur the line by trying to appropriate our core curriculum for years, so I'd find it hard for them to credibly stand on that line now.