

Humanities and Natural Sciences College Assembly
November 20, 2014
12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Bobet 332

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The assembly was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Dean Calzada in Bobet Hall 332.
Attended: Adams, Allison, Altschul, Anderson, Beard, Bednarz, Berendzen, Biguenet, Biswas, Brazier, Brice, Butler, Cahill, Chambers, Chauvin, Corbin, Doll, Eklund, Ewell, Farge, Gerlich, Gossiaux, Hardy, Hood, Kahn, Khan, Kargol, Kelly, Keulman, Kornovich, Leland, McHugh, Melancon, Moore, Mui, Murphy, Quesada, Peterson, Rupakheti, Rodriguez, Rosenbecker, Salmon, Schaberg, Sebastian, Stephenson, Thibodeaux, Thum, Tucci, Vacek, Waguespack and Zucker, Janney (student rep).

II. Invocation

The invocation was given by Father Vacek.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 23, 2014 were approved with seven abstentions.

IV. Announcements

Faculty CV updates are due on December 1 to department chairs and to Christine Murphey in the dean's office.

Tomorrow (November 21) the junior faculty meets with the dean in 212 Bobet for soft drinks, beer and good conversation.

The HNS Christmas Party on December 3 starts at 3:30. HNS' new website opens today. Let Maria know what you see that needs to be fixed.

Maria said Mark Fernandez's email to HNS faculty and staff reminds us that there are three weeks left to contribute toward the Faith in the Future campaign.

V. Reports

1. Fall Open House

Maria thanked everyone for their work in making the Open House a success. Over 500 visitors attended, 47 less than last year. Please send any suggestions for improvement to Maria or Roberta Kaskel.

2. University Financial Update

Eleven staff and six faculty (none in HNS) took the voluntary severance package. This number is less than the expected response rate. Further recommendations will be made to the board.

3. HNS Strategic Planning

Rosalie Anderson, Uriel Quesada and Chris Schaberg assisted Maria in presenting the current iteration of the HNS Strategic Planning process. The plan has evolved after regular meetings of the Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (Anderson, Calzada, Quesada, and Schaberg) throughout the fall. The Ad-Hoc committee hosted small group meetings for faculty and staff and a meeting of the HNS Visiting Committee to gather input. This past month the committee has come to realize, in light of the prospect of several departments joining HNS, the time is right to propose a name change to reflect this growth. Maria reported that out of the fall strategic planning work a new proposed name had emerged: Loyola College. A discussion followed and a straw vote was taken. Although not binding, most of the present Assembly members voted to approve the name “Loyola College,” except for one “not sure” and one abstention. Discussion continued on the flexibility and longevity of the name, as well as the ease of its use as a brand name. It was also liked for the connotation of Loyola College being central to the University, reflective of how all Loyola students pass through the College to take Common Curriculum courses.

Maria moved onto discussion of the proposed Mission Statement (see Attachment 1). Professor Biswas asked why the term “independent thinking” was not highlighted. Dr. Beard questioned the implication of students who “lead” and Fr. Vacek suggested the addition of “to” lead. Connie Rodriguez suggested changing “who” to “to.” A motion was made and seconded to make this change, a vote was taken and the motion passed. (One no and four abstention votes were counted. The rest of the assembly voted yes.) Several members continued to express general approval of the statement. Returning to the independent thinking debate, Hillary Eklund said the language as presented is capacious enough to describe the layers of the mission and independent thinking is fully implied.

Next Maria presented the proposed Vision Statement (see Attachment 2). John Altschul expressed concern that the language is too ambiguous to assess. Uriel said the vision statement is inherently vague because it’s a vision of the future. Maria clarified the vision statement is also an internal document. A discussion of the term “transformative experience” followed. Chris Schaberg gave examples such as faculty-student collaborative work, service learning, a senior thesis, internships—experiences in or out of the classroom. Fr. Vacek said the spiritual connotation makes it important to leave in. In response to suggestions to change the term, John Sabastian disagreed, saying it was important to leave in because it’s the piece that allows Loyola to stand out. Josefa Salmon suggested “transformative learning experience.” Joe Brendzen said it should be passed as

is. He said “transformative experience” is vague but alludes to what students often express to him about their time at Loyola. Barbara Ewell moved to change the wording to “transformative learning experience.” The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The motion failed.

Maria moved on to present the Proposed Values, listed in alphabetical order (see Attachment 3). Uriel clarified the values are things we believe in as a group, not things HNS can work on or improve. A discussion on changing the language of “God in all things” followed. Also discussed was the importance of social and cultural communities in addition to the intellectual.

Rosalie Anderson made two motions. The first motion is to approve the proposed name “Loyola College.” The motion was seconded. The second motion was to approve the proposed Mission, Vision and Values statements. The motion was seconded.

4. University Restructuring

Connie Rodriguez reported the provost’s planning advisory committee is recommending political science, sociology and criminal justice departments join HNS, as well as the Jesuit Research Institute. They are also recommending Interdisciplinary Programs return to HNS with a director who may sit with the council of chairs. Recommended also is the creation of a new College of Graduate and Professional Studies to include LIM, Counseling, Nursing and Continuing Studies. Centers and Institutes will be recommended to return to colleges to which they were housed except for Women’s Studies and the Twomey Center. A home for the Center for New Orleans Studies is still to be determined. The placement of the School of Mass Communications is still up in air but talks are currently taking place with Music Industries about joining the College of Music and Fine Arts and sharing building space. Common Curriculum and Honors will stay in the provost’s office.

VI. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded.

Proposed Mission Language

Loyola College provides all students with a foundation in knowledge through teaching and scholarship within and across the liberal arts and sciences. The College educates students who lead meaningful lives with and for others; who appreciate and contribute to global cultures; who think critically and make decisions for the common good; and who have a commitment to the Jesuit tradition of a life of justice, service, and intellectual engagement.

Proposed Vision

By 2020 Loyola College will stand out among the best liberal arts colleges for integrating scholarship, teaching, and transformative experiences.

Proposed Values

- Diversity
- Excellence in teaching and scholarship
- God in all things
- Intellectual Rigor
- Reflection