Senators attended. Dean Scholz chaired the meeting, calling it to order at 3:45 p.m.

1. Announcements and updates.
   a. Dean Scholz offered congratulations and thanks to Dr. Greg Smith, the founding director of the FIGs program, who recently retired. A national search was conducted; Dr. Nathan Phelps, a former UW-Madison student who went on to earn his doctorate and lead a similar program at Western Kentucky University will return to Madison to lead the program. Senators were encouraged to contact the FIGs program if they wish to participate in Fall 2016.
   b. A brief progress report on the L&S policy on mandatory major declaration was provided. This policy holds that students must declare a major by the time they accumulate 86 credits; after that, they will get a registration hold that can be lifted after consulting an advisor and developing a plan for declaration. Senators asked for clarification of the registration hold and how “credits in progress” are treated; these are included in the 86 credits. An update on the implementation of this policy will be included in the Fall 2015 L&S Curriculum Committee report.
   c. In anticipation of requirements related to the new HR system, Dean Scholz encouraged departments to prepare to conduct regular performance review, and noted that a template process was being piloted in L&S Administration.

2. Notes of the L&S Senate meeting held on 24 November, 2014 were approved.

3. Dean Scholz provided an overview of the L&S perspective on the budget reductions. The UW System has been asked to make a $340 million cut, meaning a $90 million cut for each year of the biennium without reserves. He reiterated a point made by the Chancellor: “these cuts are too large.” He explained that the college will manage the cuts by curtailing hiring in the upcoming academic year.

4. Questions for Dean Scholz
   a. When asked what the role of “Academic Analytics” would be and concerns about the effectiveness of these kinds of quantitative measures of departmental activity, Dean Scholz said the use of other metrics for departments could be used but there needs to be a guiding force to allocate the limited resources. Academic Analytics seems to be the best way to do so, but departments will be able to make a case for other measures that may be more suited to their discipline.
   b. Dean Scholz was asked what the window in which departures and hiring will be considered, to which he replied that despite the cuts, hiring activities still in progress will move forward. When Senators asked about other hiring, the dean responded that gift funded positions will also likely move forward.
   c. When asked if L&S will need to admit more students to earn more tuition dollars, Dean Scholz responded that budget reductions are unrelated to tuition revenues.
d. Senators expressed concern about the contradiction between encouraging departments to offer “high-impact, low-enrollment” courses, at the same time they are encouraged to increase enrollments overall. Dean Scholz responded that a mixture of small and large classes is valuable and normal at a large the university.

e. Senators asked about changes in graduate funding for tuition waivers for TAs. The dean responded there will be an increase in the tuition charged for RAs and PAs. Also, there will be hardship for federal grants when they are not going up.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by

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