

Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Fall Faculty Meeting
Friday, November 10, 2017
11:30 am
Sheldon Museum of Art Auditorium

O'Connor welcomed the faculty. O'Connor remarked that the Carson Center is moving forward, noting that HDR Architecture has been hired to renovate the former Nebraska Bookstore property. O'Connor continued that new dance facilities will be in the same building, a wonderful opportunity for our dance program to have studio spaces, and amenities like Pilates fitness systems and shower facilities. O'Connor continued that a new endowment fund has been established with a million dollar gift from Professor Emeritus of Art History Peter J. Worth and his wife Inge Worth to support the School of Art, Art History & Design as well as piano scholarships. O'Connor remarked that Inge Worth was a good friend of faculty and staff members and passed away several months ago, and noted that the relationships built within our community matter and are a key to our success.

O'Connor noted two compliments to the College, shedding a spotlight on a signature strength of our College. First, we had an issue with a student but it was resolved very well at the Dean's level. The issue did involve a faculty member, but when talking to the student, the compliment O'Connor received from the upper administration was that the level of trust our students have in the faculty is extraordinary. O'Connor remarked that when students have an issue, they'll come to us first; that trust and commitment is unique, and it speaks to the culture of this College. Second, O'Connor remarked that Christina Hixson visits us twice a year, and to her students explain the level of support they get from the College; they know their teachers, and the Advisory Board wants the faculty to know that that is special.

Announcement

O'Connor announced that Francisco Souto will be the new Director of our School of Art, Art History & Design starting on January 1, 2018. O'Connor remarked that as a long-time member of the faculty, Souto's energy and commitment will be extraordinary. O'Connor thanked Associate Dean Chris Marks for stepping forward to lead the School of Art, Art History & Design in the interim.

Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2017

Donna Harler made a motion to approve. Carolyn Barber seconded. Motion passed.

O'Connor reminded faculty of the presentation given by Jackie Mattingly regarding student retention and advised faculty that if a student's absence in class is noted for a week, faculty members should send them an email or make contact. O'Connor commented that this type of communication makes a significant difference as to whether that student finishes college.

Associate Dean Christopher Marks presented a proposal to change the name of a degree in the School of Art, Art History & Design. Marks commented that the National Association of Schools of Art and Design is the accreditation body. NASAD thinks that the name Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design is too restrictive and specialized for a liberal arts degree, and is requesting that the name be changed to Design. Marks continued that changing the name of a degree is a lengthy process, and the proposal has already been approved by the School of Art, Art History & Design faculty and the Hixson-Lied College Curriculum Committee. Marks remarked that the proposal comes to the faculty as a motion to approve and will then be reviewed by academic affairs. Marks invited discussion. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Marks continued with the proposal of a brand new degree, a Bachelor of Arts in Emerging Media Arts; Marks noted that the proposed curriculum will go on to the Academic Planning Committee and then to the Board of Regents. Marks noted that this proposal also comes to the faculty as a motion to approve, having already been approved by the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film Faculty and the Hixson-Lied College Curriculum Committee. Marks invited Megan Elliott to speak.

Elliott thanked the faculty for taking the time to read the document and thanked her colleagues for their input and time over the summer. Elliott remarked that input was also received from students, alumni, the Advisory Council, industry hiring partners, K-12 teachers, and the proposed curriculum presents many opportunities for interdisciplinary work and will produce spectacular outcomes. Elliott invited discussion and offered to take questions.

Kevin Hanrahan asked how this curriculum differentiates from the Digital Arts Initiative. Marks answered that the DAI was designed largely as a series of introductory courses to these topics, but DAI was conceived for students just taking an introduction with no prerequisites, and no minor or certificate. Marks continued that the topics are similar but the outcomes and intentions are quite different.

Dana Fritz inquired if there will be opportunities to collaborate with drawing and photography students where appropriate, and Elliott answered in the affirmative and commented that there will be a proposed year-long course called Visual Expression, and the curriculum is currently a scaffold and a list of suggested electives is currently not required.

O'Connor remarked that that the Carson Foundation has committed twenty million dollars and the University will have to allocate some of its own funds and is committed to building a faculty for the Center.

Kevin Hanrahan made a motion to approve. Bill Grange seconded. Motion passed unanimously. O'Connor thanked Elliott, Rick Endacott, Steve Kolbe, and Sharon Teo, who have put in an incredible amount of hours over the summer. O'Connor invited questions from the faculty.

Pinnell asked for an update on the University's financial situation. O'Connor answered that it is complex, and the University of Nebraska system needs to find 50 million dollars out of its budget. O'Connor continued that the first 30 million is hoped to be achieved through budget efficiencies and staffing. Information Technologies, business and finance and human resources may be centralized. O'Connor continued that credit hour production, enrollments, number and size of majors, number of degrees that fall lower than other programs are being studied, and O'Connor hopes to maintain all of our programs. Chancellor Green will make his preliminary findings available starting next week. O'Connor stressed that people come first and the goal is for everyone to keep their jobs. O'Connor remarked that the Academic Planning Committee will discuss these matters on November 15 and will hold hearings in January to determine whether they accept the Chancellor's proposal. O'Connor thanked all for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.