

Dean's Student Advisory Committee
College of Arts and Sciences
4:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Nielsen Hall 270

MINUTES

Dean's staff in attendance: Assistant Dean Joyce Allman, Associate Dean Kelly Damphousse, Susan Bayliss. Guests: Bette Scott and Anne Feher, OU Career Services

Associate Dean Kelly Damphousse opened the meeting and reported on the following topics:

- **NSF Grant: ADVANCE PAID:** Under this 3-year, \$500,000 grant, OU is working within the Big XII Conference to bring about institutional change by addressing such issues as the recruitment of more women and minority faculty members in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math.
- **OU Ethics:** The College of Arts and Sciences is working with other colleges at OU to form a student ethics group. Dr. Damphousse pointed out that courses already exist at OU that address ethics issues in biology, business, and journalism.
- **Arts & Sciences Scholarships:** The College actively seeks scholarship funding and has brought the number of yearly awards to students to 168. Although respective scholarship award amounts vary, the average award is about \$1,200. Students can visit the Arts & Sciences website at: <http://casweb.ou.edu/home/students/scholarships/scholarships.html> to get general scholarship information, view scholarship criteria, and download an application. All scholarships are need based. **The scholarship application deadline is February 1, 2007.** Students can contact Susan Bayliss at 325-2078 or sbayliss@ou.edu for more information.
- **The Arts and Sciences Leadership Scholars** students participate in a chalking program, making themselves available to the college to chalk for Arts & Sciences events.

Ms. Bette Scott with OU Career Services began her presentation by stating that OU Career Services is a one-stop resource for students. Students can visit the website at: <http://www.ou.edu/career/>. **Services for Arts & Sciences students are available at no additional charge.** They offer such services as:

- **Career Planning:** Workshops are available on resume and cover letter writing, job interview attire, how to ace an interview, etc.. The college offers a career planning course each semester (CAS 4091). Students can meet with Anne Feher (afeher@ou.edu) about career plans, pursuing advanced degrees, etc.
- **Online posting of resume, jobs search and job board (soonerjobsearch):** Students can post their resumes and search for jobs. Students can enter job search criteria into the job board and will be sent an e-mail when a like position is posted. A link is available to search for international jobs.
- **Career Fairs/Job Interviews:** Career Services schedules job fairs in conjunction with on-campus interviewing. This is in the spring for Arts & Sciences students. Career Services works with companies to identify majors that are relevant to the types of positions they want to fill. Many Fortune 500 companies hire regionally. About 300 companies conduct

on-campus interviews at OU. Many students say it is harder to find a job once one has graduated, so it is recommended to start searching and interviewing for jobs before graduation. Upcoming career fairs relevant to Arts & Sciences majors are **The Martin Luther King Multicultural Career Fair on February 1, 2007, at the Lloyd Noble Center and the OU Job Expo career fair on April 18, 2007, in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom.**

- **Internships:** Information about internships can be found on the Career Services website. A link is available to search for international internships. Students can also speak with Bette Bishop (bbishop@ou.edu). Assistant Dean Joyce Allman pointed out that the college offers an Internship class (CAS 4630) where students can earn credit while participating in internships and Non-Profit Management I & II (CAS 3033 and 4033) where students complete 24 hours of internship work. The college also offers an Arts and Sciences Co-Op Program (CAS 3901) where students spend the semester away from campus while working. Often, employers will pay a salary. Students earn variable credit.
- **Graduate School Fair:** Held in the fall at the time students are starting to apply to graduate schools.
- **Graduate students:** Graduate students can also take advantage of Career Services. Jobs for graduate students are posted to their website in the spring.

In response to a question about community service/volunteer opportunities, students were referred to the Volunteer Programs Office, Rm. 249 in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Assistant Dean Joyce Allman began her presentation by stating that the college offers Life After OU: A Survival Guide (CAS 4113) in the spring. This course prepares students for the adult responsibilities and decisions they will face in the future.

Dr. Allman noted that Arts & Sciences Academic Services met with 40 job recruiters last spring, and when asked what skills they were looking for in potential hires, these employers stated that a broad-based, rather than a focused, education was desired, which is the type of education Arts and Sciences students receive.

In reference to comments made at the last Dean's Student Advisory Committee meeting about some Zoology and Chemistry classes being offered at the same times, Dr. Allman stated that only ZOO Animal Behavior and MBIO Cell Biology were taught at the same times. She added that there is no conflict with these classes in the fall, just in the spring. The Departments of Zoology and Chemistry and Biochemistry will work to resolve this issue by the Spring 2008 semester. Further, Dr. Allman said that students can also take ZOO Ecology or Evolution in place of MIBO Cell Biology. She will research whether Evolution is a required course.

In response to a question about the possibility of degree checks being done online, Dr. Allman stated that degree checks need to be done one-on-one with an Academic Services advisor because there are too many variables. Degree checks cannot be done until the student has completed 90 hours, although students can come in for consultations any time. She pointed out the implementation of **Degree Navigator** (<http://webapps.ou.edu/dag/>), where students can

view their degree requirements and track their progress toward completion. Further, if students visit **iAdvise** (<https://iadvise.ou.edu/>) they can make advising appointments.

Amy Bourlon, Dean's Student Advisory Committee Chair, opened by disseminating fliers for the 2006 Adopt-A-Child Campaign. This program helps to furnish holiday needs for needy children.

Ms. Bourlon and Cornelia Lambert, Co-Chair of the Dean's Student Advisory Committee, addressed the proposed change in the current grading system to a + - system. Ms. Bourlon is against this change as she feels it would hurt both high and low-end students. She said if this new system is implemented, some changes would occur immediately, while others would happen later. Ms. Lambert is for the new grading system. She stated that because most universities have changed to this type of grading system, it makes it harder for OU students to compete with students from other universities. Ms. Bourlon suggested students contact Dr. Joe Rodgers (jroddgers@ou.edu), who serves on the grading scale task force, with their opinions.

Ms. Bourlon approached the issue of lengthening the class break time to allow students, who have to travel longer distances between classes, more time to do so. She suggested students contact Matt Burris (mburris@ou.edu), Chair of the UOSA Academic Affairs Committee, with their opinions.