Report on the Activities of the LAS College Council for AY 2009-10

The chair wishes to thank the members of the College Council, and especially those on the executive committee, for their good work on behalf of their colleagues in LAS. Cheryl Miller proved to be an enormous help to a first-time chair. The chair also extends his appreciation to the dean for his accessibility and willingness to work with the council in a spirit of cooperation.

In keeping with past practices, the council met on the first Monday of every month throughout the academic year, with the agenda having been set by the executive committee in consultation with the dean the previous week. A typical meeting would begin with approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, followed by announcements of events of interest to LAS faculty. Council members who also served as Faculty senators would then give a brief report on the Senate’s recent activities. The council would proceed from there to discussion of topics relating to new or old business, when needed. All meetings ended with an “as may arise” segment.

The principal action taken by the council in the fall semester was the review of the dean. This was done through an on-line survey distributed to LAS faculty. Results were forwarded to the dean, and have been kept confidential. The chair wishes to thank Professor Ballard-Reisch and members of the Administrative Review committee for their work on the review process.

Some of the more noteworthy topics discussed by the council included the university’s budget problems and its implications for LAS. (Fortunately, the ill-effects were somewhat blunted by an increase in enrolments across the college.) Also receiving vigorous discussion was the situation surrounding the General Education program in which all changes, however minor, are currently being held up by the provost’s office. And, at the most recent meeting, concerns were raised about the handling of cooperative education within the college. It appears that a non-trivial portion of the coop credit hours earned in LAS at the 400-level are being awarded by non-faculty members. The council agreed to continue discussion of this matter in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Hershfield, chair