Department of Social Sciences
Minutes, March 13, 2015
1pm
Lee AA-177
Charlotte E-105
Collier M-120A

Attendance: Mark Herman, Bruno Baltodano, Eric Seelau, Sheila Seelau, Sabine Maetzke, Terri Heck, Brian Page, Phillip Wiseley, Harold Van Boven, Thomas Donaldson, Cynthia Chausse, Cindy Ermus, Dawn Kulpanowski, Matthew Vivyan.

Excused: Jacquelyn Davis

1. Scheduling
* It was announced that a draft of the Fall 2015 schedule has been distributed to faculty in the SoAHSS.
* Faculty were encouraged to review the proposed schedule and report any concerns with regards to offerings.
* Faculty were also notified of the deadline for their load sheet for the Fall schedule. They were asked to turn in the load sheet to their scheduler promptly. It was noted that on the Collier campus the schedulers have already begun assigning instructors. This has not yet begun on the Lee Campus.
1. Department Chair/Program Coordinator.
* Professor Page informed the Department that at today’s Chair/Program Coordinator meeting with the Provost, Dr. Wright proposed moving away from the Department Chair model to Program Coordinators and Associate Deans college-wide. In the Provost meeting, the Provost indicated he planned on announcing this plan at one department meeting where an election was scheduled to take place, but current Chairs could serve out the remainder of their elected term; however, if a department decided to move in this direction they could do so at this time. Professor Page requested feedback and opened it up for discussion.
* Questions were asked why this new model was being suggested. It was noted that currently Deans feel overwhelmed and that Chairs are not allowed to contractually complete many of the tasks they would like to see completed by Associate Deans.
* The question was proposed whether or not the department could advocate for a more traditional chair model in order to give the faculty more say over the Social Sciences. It was noted that this is a contractual issue and not a decision the department could accomplish unilaterally.
* Questions were raised regarding the responsibilities of a program coordinator and whether or not this model would minimize opportunities for faculty governance and input with the school and the college. It was noted that other schools (Business, for example) do have program coordinators, but it is not clear whether or not their responsibilities are less, the same, and/or more than Chairs. They do get one course release as opposed to a two course release. The Provost did note that departments such as the Social Sciences would most likely have more than one Program Coordinator, but it was not clear how many program coordinators would be needed if the college moved to this model.
* After discussion, the department unanimously agreed not to transition to a program coordinator model and to continue to support the current Chair model as designed.
1. Upcoming Meeting Scheduled
* Professor Page noted that the department currently had two meetings remaining for the semester. The April Department Meeting and a Community of Practice Scheduled for April 15. Given that we are nearing the end of the semester, Professor Page proposed cancelling the April department meeting unless new business or information was in need for discussion. The department agreed.
* It was reminded that the department also had an off campus social gathering also planned for April.
1. New Business
* Dr. Cindy Ermus announced that she has accepted a new faculty position at the University of Lethbridge and will be leaving FSW at the end of the year. She noted this was a difficult decision, especially given her time at FSW and appreciation of the faculty and students she has encountered this year.
* The department thanked Dr. Emrus and wished her well and congratulated her on the new position.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm