



College of Arts and Letters
2021-2022 Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021, Webex

Call to Order 4:05 PM

I. Roll Call

Present: Alam, Alamina, Allred, Baltus, Beatty, Benton, Black, Branson, Caceres, Case, Christman, Compura, Cook, Crookston, Dunn, Emonds (for Semaan), Feldmeier, Ferris, Foss, Grazzini, Hey, Keith, Kistner, McBane, Mezo, Monteleone, Montes (for Yamazaki), Montpetit, Nemeth, Orloff (for Miner), Rouillard, Smith, Stauch, Stover, Taylor, Whittaker, Xianlin, Yaklin (38)

Absent: Carpenter, Dudley, Heberle, Sakowski (4)

Vacancies: 3

Guests: Ayres, Barnes, Boden, Hintz, Gilbert, Gregory, Sullivan (7)

II. Approval of Agenda

Meeting agenda submitted for approval; Motion to approve; Second; Vote: Agenda Approved.

Minutes from last meeting, September 7, 2021, submitted for approval; Motion to approve; Second; Vote: Minutes Approved.

III. Executive Committee Report: Jetsa Caceres

No report: Executive Committee did not meet.

IV. Dean's Report: Charlene Gilbert

COVID protocol reminders: masks required indoors; students can be told to put on mask (correctly); you can remove yourself from the space and report student to Student Conduct Office. Cannot ask student to explain disability. Students and employees are required to get COVID vaccine; CBA will govern faculty. Please register vaccine status to UT portal.

COVID Questions posed and answered: University does not consider it exposure if everyone in class is wearing a mask. Office of Accessibility and Disability Services is NOT giving mask-wearing exemptions for class, only accommodations for breaks (student must leave class and go outside to remove mask during break); faculty will get a memo. Remind students who self-report COVID-positive to you to also contact Student Affairs.

CAL enrollment down 7.1%, part of a 10-year trend, but currently exacerbated by pandemic. First-year retention 66%, also down. Graduate numbers up 10.2%.

College Priorities 2021-2022 include more visibility; one example: we will be one of the official underwriters for NPR's *Hidden Brain* on WGTE.

RCM Budget Model discussions still in progress. Share plans with the Dean's office for departments, such as known faculty retirements, so that this can be accounted for.

Concerns re: Kohler Fund new priorities and how that will affect faculty international research support.

CAL Fall Welcome Back Reception: Wednesday, Sept. 29, 4-6 PM in the Alumni Pavilion.

V. Faculty Senate Report: Suzanne Smith

Senate Executive Committee met with President Postel to address issues of race regarding the recent departure of four African American administrators, as well as the arrest and subsequent release of a former African American administrator for laptop theft. Postel stated he had reviewed the arrest report and found "no issues of concern." The departures of the administrators were friendly, and the door is open for their return.

Because of lack of transparency concerning budgetary planning and finance, Executive Committee suggested forming a new standing committee on Faculty Senate, which President Postel supports. He also stated that Faculty Senate will have representation on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Provost Karen Bjorkman said the situation where students were erroneously contacted about attendance tracker reporting was a messaging error and students will be removed from the communication process.

Vice Provost Amy Thompson announced multiple semester registration where students will be able to register for classes for both fall and spring at the same time. The program is optional for students and will begin spring 2022. This impacts course approval and modification deadlines: Faculty Senate Curriculum committee will need modifications entered into the system by January 30, 2022.

Vice President Meredith discussed plans to increase enrollment by diversifying recruitment efforts; stated that UT has "not responded to the changing landscape in recruitment and COVID has made that more dire."

VI. Graduate Council Report: Jami Taylor

Graduate enrollment at the University is down 3.2%, but CAL is up [10.2%]. Interim COGS Dean heading up a Strategic Enrollment Committee and they plan to hire a Graduate Success Coach. Interim Dean wants to benchmark our stipends with other universities to limit losing potential students. COGS is also hiring an international recruiter.

- VII. CIM Update Report: Guest Alana Malik, University Assessment Director**
CIM modifications are in response to feedback from the Program Review process, specifically the review and revisions of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and mapping appropriate courses to assessment of SLOs. A significant number of programs need help with these two action items to move their programs forward. The University Assessment Committee determined that they want to include curriculum mapping as part of their process, and submission of these was requested beginning in January 2020. CIM notifies the University Assessment Director when a new or modified course, program, major, certificate is submitted. Provided feedback is optional and will not impede workflow of the approval process.
- VIII. Curriculum Report: Linda Rouillard**
Motion to postpone Curriculum Report until next Council meeting; seconded; Motion approved.
- IX. Elections Committee Report: Kelly McBane**
Election for open Humanities At-Large seat to be held beginning Monday, Sept. 27; there are currently two nominees.
- X. Constitution Report: Jami Taylor**
No report.
- XI. Old Business**
No Old Business.
- XII. Announcements**
No Announcements.
- XIII. Adjournment**
Motion to Adjourn; Second; Motion Approved; Meeting Adjourned.