



College of Arts and Letters
2021-2022 Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021, Webex

Call to Order 4:00 PM

I. Roll Call

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

Absent: Carpenter, Dudley, Grazzini, Heberle, Mezo, Nemeth (6)

Vacancies: 1

Guests: Anderson, Gilbert, Hammel (3)

II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

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

Minutes from November 2, 2021, meeting submitted for approval; Motion to approve; Second; Vote: Minutes Approved.

III. Executive Committee Report: Jetsa Caceres

A Bylaws Amendment Proposal was discussed and will be shared with Faculty Council at the November 30 meeting. Executive Council is meeting Friday, November 19, and Dean Gilbert will share details of the Incentive-Based Budgeting (IBB) model.

IV. Faculty Senate Report: Suzanne Smith

The Executive Committee met on October 29 and met with Dr. Small, Vice Provost for Academic Administration and Faculty Affairs. Areas of concern for faculty were identified, including financial pressures caused by spring 2020 budget cuts. An ombudsman to represent faculty matters in the future was proposed.

The Committee met with President Postel and reviewed the federal COVID mandate, Faculty Senate Constitution feedback, and ways Faculty Senate can play a central role in budgetary planning in the decentralized model. One proposal: each College could have a Faculty Senate budget representative.

The Committee also met with the Provost and discussed replacing retired support staff, citing a need for faculty clerical support.

President Postel attended the Faculty Senate meeting and reviewed the HLC visit of earlier that day. The team gave President Postel an informal view of their impressions, characterized by Postel as “extremely good with many compliments.” The HLC team referred specifically to progress and transparency during the COVID crisis and stated that they were pleased with the budget conversion, overall financial stability, and assessment at the University. A draft of the report will be available ten days after the initial HLC visit and a final report will follow.

The Strategic Planning process is underway and a committee of 22 people has been chosen. Jason Holly of Faculty Senate will co-chair with Anne Fulkerson, Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Research.

President Postel reported that the University currently has 2400 more Direct from High School applications for next fall, the highest since 2018.

The Senate approved several program modifications, including a new undergraduate minor in World Cultures and a change to an English minor.

The Core Curriculum Committee is meeting and set priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year: process improvements for ways to evaluate courses; redesigning SLOs to align with the UT core; focus on multicultural requirements to align with state standards; and an analysis of completion rates of core courses, which varies widely from College to College. The Committee wants to identify why this spread is true and will be examining exemptions, transfer credits awarded and related issues, and how these exemptions are granted and by whom. Senate discussion pointed out that faculty and the relevant Departments should be consulted. In addition, it was reported that the state of Ohio has rebranded its transfer module with new diversity, equity, and inclusion language for elective courses.

The Board of Trustees requested revisions to the Constitution, most importantly a change to Article 2 which stipulates assessment of the Provost, Vice Provost, and Deans, and currently occurs every two years. The Board of Trustees would like to change this to input when requested; therefore, the planned review process by the Senate would stop. After much discussion, a decision was made by vote that the President and Vice President of Faculty Senate will ask to meet with the Board for clarification of the intent and wording of the revision.

V. Graduate Council Report: Dan Hammel

Amy Thompson, Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, said that graduate enrollment for Spring is currently down compared to this time last year. However, while the University is down 8.3%, the College of Arts & Letters is up 6.8 %. These are usually continuing students rather than new students.

A graduate enrollment plan will be released soon. A Committee is putting together a plan to increase graduate enrollment. Graduate funding will not be decided only by the Dean of Graduate Studies, but

by committee. Council members discussed concerns regarding how this may negatively impact graduate funding in the College.

President Postel attended and noted that graduate education had to be a priority and addressed in the Strategic Plan. He stated that it is extremely important to the University of Toledo and as a university of our type, we had a relatively high percentage of graduate students enrolled compared to other universities. He also noted that a much stronger centralized recruiting effort should be in place in addition to efforts within the Colleges.

VI. Curriculum Report: Linda Rouillard

Program Proposals: Graphic Design Certificate. Vote: approved.

Program Modifications: Studio Art BFA – Graphic and Interactive Design Concentration; Studio Art BFA – Photography and Digital Media Concentration; Studio Art BFA – 3D Studies Concentration; Visual Art BA. Vote: all approved.

Course Modifications: MED 3030 – Music for the Early Childhood Teacher. Vote: approved.

Additions to approved proposals from 11/2: Environmental Economics Certificate; Environmental Economics Minor; Public Economics Certificate; Public Economics Minor. Vote: all approved.

Discussion and concern about a new procedure on the Provost's website that was not communicated directly to University college Councils or Faculty Senate, namely the policy that new programs and certificates must follow the new Undergraduate Program Development procedure.

VII. Dean's Report: Charlene Gilbert

College Budget Advisory Committee members have been selected: Jetsa Caceres, Kristen Keith, Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch, Steven Sakowski, Karen Price, Michelle Sullivan, Sara Yaklin. First draft of the budget is due November 23. The Dean and the Budget Manager will meet with the Provost on December 3. The process then includes an academic review committee and a University committee that reviews the budget before it goes to President Postel.

Looking at spring 2022, the College of Arts & Letters has far more classes on the schedule than we have a budget for. A careful review of low-enrolled classes will be needed and those will need to be either cancelled or consolidated with other classes by three weeks before the beginning of the semester.

An Experience Day is planned for January 21 and faculty will be asked to participate; the College will be doing more hands-on events with potential students to introduce them to our majors. The College will also be hosting a STEM day for 7th and 8th graders that focuses on STEM disciplines in Arts & Letters, such as geography, economics, anthropology, data analytics, and psychology. Goal is to nurture the pipeline of students who will eventually come to the College of Arts & Letters.

The College is in line to receive about four planned gifts of \$100,000 or more.

VIII. Constitution Report: Stephen Sakowski

Discussed via email the amendment that will be proposed at the next meeting; the amendment proposes that new programs be treated as New Business rather than Old Business, as stated in the current Constitution and Bylaws. This will allow all departments the time to review and discuss proposed new programs.

IX. Announcements

The deadline for Summer Fellowships for tenure-track faculty research is January 20th.

X. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn; Second; Motion Approved; Meeting Adjourned