

CAL CAC Meeting Approved Minutes  
March 14, 2024  
3:15-5 pm

Present: Y. Aronoff ((guest presentation), T. Berding, D. DeVoss (guest presentation), M. Ferkany, D. Fernandez (Associate Dean, ex officio), S. Fritzsche (Associate Dean, guest presentation), B. Halbritter, Y. Kedem, J. Keune, C. Kwakye, C. Long (Dean, ex officio), K. Mapes (CAC Chair), D. Méndez (minute-taker, S. Schopieray (Assistant Dean, guest presentation), M. Shipley (guest presentation), L. Snider, D. Thomas (ex officio), W. Vincent

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98995928531>

Passcode: CAC

*Secretary and minute-taker: Danny Mendez*

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 PM (Motion made by Halbritter; Seconded by Keune)

2. Approval of agenda.

The meeting agenda was approved (Motion made by Kedem; Seconded by Halbritter).

3. Approval of [CAC Draft Minutes – January](#)

-The minutes of the January CAC meeting are pending approval because they need more information on attendance. The amended draft minutes will be approved at the April meeting.

-Approval of [CAC Draft Minutes – February](#)

-The minutes of the February meeting were approved with no changes.

4. **Dean's action items.**

-The Dean shared a comprehensive update on various initiatives and priorities within the college, focusing on academic excellence, diversity and inclusion efforts, and strategies for navigating the current budgetary landscape.

-A key highlight was the successful implementation of new programs to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. The Dean emphasized the importance of continuous innovation in curricular offerings to meet evolving educational needs.

-The Dean outlined the college's ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, detailing recent initiatives to foster a more equitable and supportive community for all students, faculty, and staff.

**Budgetary Considerations and Strategic Planning:**

-With the changing budget model at the university level, the Dean discussed the college's approach to managing resources effectively while prioritizing essential services and strategic investments.

-The Dean proposed realigning certain budget allocations to better support departmental needs and college-wide priorities, emphasizing a collaborative and transparent decision-making process.

-Attention was drawn to the potential impacts of external funding changes and the strategies being developed to mitigate any adverse effects on the college's operations and mission.

**Faculty Development and Support:**

- The Dean announced new initiatives to support faculty professional development, including opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and research.
- A plan for a more structured mentorship program for junior faculty was presented to enhance their career progression and integration into the college community.
- The importance of recognizing and rewarding faculty excellence through various awards and recognitions was underscored.

*Discussion and Feedback from Council Members:*

- Council members supported the Dean's updates, particularly appreciating the focus on diversity and inclusion and faculty development.
- Questions were raised about the specifics of the budget realignment proposal, and requests were made for more detailed information on how departmental feedback would be incorporated into the final decisions.
- Suggestions were made to increase student involvement in some new initiatives, particularly those related to curricular innovation and community engagement.

*Actions and Recommendations:*

- The Dean agreed to provide additional details on the budget realignment proposal, including a timeline for consultation with departments and an outline of the criteria for prioritizing allocations.

**President Guskiewicz's Visit to CAL:**

- Emphasis was placed on preparing for President Guskiewicz's upcoming visit on March 20. The Dean outlined the schedule and objectives for the visit, highlighting the opportunity to showcase the college's strengths, particularly in the arts and humanities.
- The Dean mentioned specific focus areas for the President's visit, including leadership discussions, a tour of the auditorium to observe student theater projects, and visits to Kresge and the Broad Art Museum to highlight MFA student work.
- Attendees discussed the significance of the President's visit, noting it as a strategic opportunity to advocate for the college's needs, including the necessity for new building space for the arts.
- Suggestions were made to engage the president in conversations about the college's contributions to the university's mission and the critical role of the arts and humanities in a comprehensive education.
- Concerns were raised about ensuring the visit addresses the full breadth of the college's disciplines, with a balanced representation of the arts and humanities.
- The Dean requested input from Council members on specific projects or achievements that should be highlighted during the President's visit.

5. Resolution to Faculty Senate Regarding Divestment of MSU Funds from Israel (CAL Faculty Senators – D. DeVoss and Y. Aronoff, guest presentations)

**Summary of Discussion:**

- K. Mapes introduced the topic of the resolution proposed for divestment from Israel, highlighting its significance and the diverse opinions within the college community. The discussion addressed the resolution's implications, potential impact on the community, and the college's stance.
- Key concerns raised included the resolution's one-sided perspective, potential consequences for academic freedom and collaboration, and the broader implications for the college's commitment to equity and inclusion.
- Attendee contributions emphasized the issue's complexity, including the historical context, the current political climate, and the need for a nuanced understanding of the situation.

**Feedback from Attendees:**

- Concerns were expressed about the resolution potentially contributing to a divisive atmosphere within the college, affecting both faculty and students.
- The importance of fostering dialogue and understanding across different perspectives was underscored, and suggestions for educational initiatives and forums to discuss the issue more balanced and informedly were made.
- Some attendees advocated for the resolution, citing it as an important statement on human rights and social justice. In contrast, others cautioned against taking a stance that could be perceived as delegitimizing the state of Israel or contributing to antisemitism.

**Resolution Discussion:**

- A consensus emerged on the need for a careful approach that respects the college's diverse views while upholding academic freedom, equity, and inclusion principles.
- Suggestions were made for the college to engage in more comprehensive discussions on the topic, involving a wider range of stakeholders, including students, faculty, and external experts.
- The possibility of drafting an alternative resolution or statement, focusing on social responsibility in investments more broadly without singling out specific countries or conflicts, was discussed.

**6. OCCI Summer Budget Working Group (Danielle Devoss (presenting))****Summary of Discussion:**

- The Council engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the transition from the University's OCCI (Online Course Credit Initiative) program to a new model of strategic fund allocation within the college.
- An overview of the allocated bridge funds provided by the provost for the current fiscal year was shared, highlighting the total of \$1.6 million designated for strategic initiatives following the \$1 million allocation for summer instruction and necessary operating expenses.
- The focus was on how these funds should be allocated across different spending categories identified through surveys of department chairs, including student support, faculty professional development, innovations, and facilities improvements.

**Key Points Raised:**

- There was consensus on aligning fund allocation with the college's strategic goals, emphasizing equity, openness, and community engagement.
- Concerns were raised about the potential impact of these changes on departments with unique needs, particularly in terms of facilities and specialized instructional support.
- Suggestions were made to allow for flexibility in fund allocation, enabling departments to address their most pressing needs effectively while adhering to overarching strategic objectives.

**7. [CUC By-Laws](#) (Scott Schopieray) and [CCC By-Laws](#) (Sonja Fritzsche and Morgan Shipley)****Summary:**

- S. Schopieray provided an overview of the CUC bylaws, highlighting recent revisions made in response to feedback and consultations, including with S. Fritzsche.
- The main changes involved striking specific details for flexibility and addressing comments from the last spring meeting.
- The bylaws include sections on the committee's purpose, functions, and relationship with other committees, particularly CCC.

-Concerns were raised about potential contradictions in the bylaws regarding CUC's role in curricular and co-curricular activities, specifically in sections 3.3.4.1.1 and 3.3.4.1.2.

**Clarification on CUC and CCC Relationship** (M. Shipley, guest presenter):

**Summary:**

-The discussion aimed to clarify the relationship between CUC and CCC, focusing on the intertwined nature of curricular and co-curricular activities.

-Emphasis was placed on the need for CUC to consult and collaborate on initiatives that could impact the curriculum, ensuring a seamless integration of co-curricular elements into academic programs.

-Suggestions were made to refine the bylaws language to delineate the roles and interactions between CUC and CCC and avoid ambiguities.

**Discussion Points:**

-Concerns were raised regarding potential contradictions within the bylaws regarding CUC's involvement in curricular initiatives and its pre-consultation role before CCC proposals.

-It was acknowledged that the bylaws might need further refinement to explicitly state the dual aspects of CUC's functions and ensure clarity in its advisory capacity related to curriculum matters.

-The importance of accurately reflecting the committees' intentions and facilitating effective collaboration was underscored.

**Actions and Recommendations:**

-The council recommended revisiting the bylaws' language to address concerns about clarity and potential contradictions, particularly in specifying CUC's role in curricular and co-curricular activities.

-Suggested action includes drafting a clearer distinction and linking the different aspects of CUC's work in the bylaws to portray its scope and relationship with CCC accurately.

-A follow-up discussion is proposed to review the revised bylaw language, ensuring it aligns with the council's intentions and facilitates clear understanding and collaboration between committees.

8. Agenda items for All College Meeting on April 1

-This item will be shared and discussed via e-mail.

9. Adjourn.

-The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM