

CAL CAC Approved Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2025
3:15–5:00pm

Secretary and minute-taker: Jon Keune

Present: Kristen Mapes, Chair, Interim Dean Yen-Hwei Lin (ex officio), Associate Dean Sonja Fritzsche (ex officio), Thomas Berding (Art), Julie Lindquist (WRAC), Yore Kedem (Linguistics and Languages), Jon Keune (Religious Studies), Chamara Kwakye (AAAS), LouAnne Snider (Staff Advisory Committee), Garth Sabo (ex officio), Deanna Thomas (Dean's Office), Yore Kedem (Romance Languages), Bill Vincent (English)

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of minutes from 12/2/24 All College Meeting: [CAL All College Meeting DRAFT Minutes 12.2.2024.docx](#)
Motion to approve: Liz, Seconded: Tom, unanimously approved
4. Approval of minutes from 12/5/24 meeting: [CAL CAC DRAFT Meeting Minutes 12.5.24.docx](#)
Motion to approve: Tom, Seconded: Liz, unanimously approved
5. RCAH-CAL Exploratory Committee Update (Ken Desloover and Sonja Fritzsche)
Sonja: Meeting throughout the semester
Charge from Interim Provost is still being clarified
 - initial outcome supposed to be pros/cons, pitfalls/opportunities of merger
 - esp. interested in possible risks, costs if merger were to proceedKen: committee is concerned that Provost's timeline seems too quick
 - challenge: committee is still catching up on what was done earlier
 - res colleges submitted report on alternative admin structures
 - maybe 2-3 years ago
 - received no response
 - CAL/RCAH committee hasn't yet seen the report
 - all residential colleges have been watched by admin for 10+ years alreadySonja: still looking forward to presenting results of listening sessions to Provost
Yen Hwei: earlier, admin considered merging all residential colleges
 - Provost's possible response to reports might have gone to deans but not the committeeKen: noteworthy that Provost has said that CAL/RCAH would "strengthen humanities"
 - some talk of MSU not being able to change budget models with too many small units that would undercut economy of scaleYore: doesn't seem like we've heard a compelling argument for benefits of merger
Sonja: there is widespread trust across RCAH/CAL committee, which is good itself
 - this is opportunity now to educate people re: humanities and what we doKristen: Provost often argues that merger clarifies for students "where to go"
 - are we hearing from Admissions/Recruitment officers about thisSonja: good idea to invite them to speak specifically to this, plan for future
Kristen: another concern: would merger reduce humanities representation in

committees and thus shrink humanities' influence at MSU overall?

Sonja: committee esp. welcomes thoughts like this, to share w Provost

Yen Hwei: students are especially concerned about this

- this is one reason behind resolution from ASMSU
- small size of humanities becomes service burden too

Tom: opportunity here to consider how res college option could serve CAL's interest

- don't necessarily need to envision RCAH being merged wholly intact

Kristen: let's have Sonja/Ken return to Feb CAC meeting to share further updates

6. Interim Dean's remarks and action items

No much to update

MSU comprehensive capital campaign will launch soon: \$4bil by 2032

- with implications for expected fundraising by CAL (and all colleges)
- CAL still searching for Senior Director for Development

Provost visit to CAL set for Mon Feb 3

- Provost visits each college every year, to learn about each
 - helps anticipate progressive budget requests
 - CAL has two new institutes:
 - Inst for Structural Change (grant funding),
 - Inst for Ubuntu Thought and Practice (linked to Ethics Institute that MSU Pres will announce in Feb)
 - Arts & Humanities Health & Wellbeing (AAHW) major, with 1855 position
 - probably will launch Fall 2026
 - Knowledge Commons designated as NEH public repository
- all CAL faculty invited to meeting with Provost this year (not only chairs, directors)
- substantial time reserved for discussion
- [discussion of procedures for impactful CAL all-college meetings in the future that leave a clear impression on a visiting Provost or President]

7. Update from CAC Responsibilities discussion ([Notes](#))

Several past CAC chairs met recently to discuss how CAC could be less reactive, more proactive in bringing our constituents' concerns/issues to CAL

- need some cleanup/streamlining of logistics within CAL
 - ensure we're not duplicating efforts

a. CAC Handbook

- develop little handbook explaining CAC's responsibilities, timelines
 - makes on-boarding new CAC chair/members easier
 - optimizes time in CAC operation

b. Relationship to CAL by-laws

- still not clear when CAC chair should be elected
- Kristen: any bylaw adjustments we want to focus on in near future?

Yore: in past couple years, CAC doesn't seem to bring as many issues from depts to CAL

- more top-down: Dean's Office shares things CAC brings to constituents
- would be good to issue call for CAC agenda items, maybe 1 week before meeting

Tom: appreciate Dean's question to us earlier, of what's on our minds

- we could spend still more time on this
- enables feedback from beyond the circle of deans, chairs, etc.

8. CAL All College Meeting language, framework, and relationship to CAL by-laws

Kristen: unclear when we shifted from calling “CAL Faculty Meeting” to “CAL All College”

- several years ago (?), staff started being invited
- may need to update the CAL bylaws to reflect the “All College” nature of meetings
- also unclear how the CAL All College meeting agenda is set
- What do we need from an All-College Meeting vs. Faculty Meeting
 - easy to imagine how constituencies’ needs differ

[discussion of various concerns, including necessity (or not) of in-person meetings]

Kristen: let’s all think carefully about agenda items and what info is shared across CAL in advance of the All College meetings

9. New business

10. Adjourn

Motion to approve: Yore, Seconded: Bill