

Advisory Council Minutes
College of Arts & Letters
September 8, 2016

Present: Chris Long (Dean), Kristie Dotson (Phil), Jon Frey (AAHD), Catherine Ryu (L&L), Karen Kangas-Preston (Thr), Jon Keune (Rel), Julie Lindquist (WRAC), Olivia Gorczyca (undergrad), Salah Hassan (Eng), Safoi Babana-Hampton (RCS) *Note: Ann Folino White (THR) attended until a new Council Chair and Secretary were elected.*

Folino White convened the meeting at 3:18 pm

Dotson moved approval of the agenda. Keune seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dean's Remarks

Major Initiatives 2016-2017

1. Task Force to investigate creation of School of language
 - Combine RCS and Ling & Lang
 - Initiative to strengthen language programs, not a cost cutting measure
 - Website is available to view work of Task Force
2. Creation of Center for Interdisciplinarity
 - National search underway for Center Director; Michael O'Rourke, chair of search committee
 - Housed in Philosophy with a director from this discipline
 - Designed to strength graduate training, become leader in interdisciplinarity, and support grants for cross-disciplinary projects across the university
3. Cluster Hires in Digital Humanities
 - Deadline for unit proposals is next week. Will review proposals to consider the shape of this initiative.
4. Launch of Citizen Scholars Program
 - Currently approx. 75 students (freshmen)
 - Looking at ways to include sophomores
5. Media Arts Collaborative
 - CAL, Com Arts, and MUS collaboration
 - Well received at Traverse City Film Festival
 - CAL is holding an informal gathering for faculty with interest in this area; hopes to hold additional such gatherings for different groups of faculty

Announced Gathering at University Club for New Faculty and to celebrate those promoted in 2016.

Strategic Plan continues with its four major priorities: retain and recruit the best faculty, advance the graduate mission, enhance the undergraduate experience, cultivate a culture of transparency and inclusivity

Discussion

Ryu asked about relationship of initiatives to one another. Long stated that not all will connect, however, anticipates that the role languages will play role in cross-disciplinary initiative, for example.

Lindquist asked if first generation students are target of Citizen Scholars. Long stated that anyone can aspire to be in the program / not admission based. Program is in the spirit of Land Grant mission to include broadest scope of citizenry, and to support first generation students and those from underrepresented backgrounds.

Dotson asked about qualification to be move from “Aspirant” to “Citizen Scholar” status. Long stated that multiple criteria will determine this, still determining these, but GPA is not sole nor primary metric.

Babana-Hampton asked about number of aspirants in program and their majors. Long responded 75 current and unsure of majors. Long stated that there are currently 1,400 CAL majors; 1000 of which are women; 65% are white (a decrease from 75%).

Ryu asked about the timeline for Cluster hires due to tight turnaround for proposals at start of academic year. Long stated that the college is prepared to make hires this year, but not only this year, desires a strategic range of junior, mid-career, and senior faculty.

Frey asked if Dean will offer feedback on Digital Humanities Cluster proposals that were submitted. Long stated that will use the same model as last year concerning Strategic Plan and will offer feedback, as well as discuss decisions with faculty.

Keune asked if mechanisms are in place for evaluating Digital Humanities faculty for RPT. Long stated metrics of excellence at college-level apply to all, while giving support to junior faculty to articulate what constitutes excellence within their discipline. Ryu stressed importance of understanding of excellence at unit level in RPT review. Long stated that an audit of RPT bylaws at unit and college levels is happening with goal to bring these into alignment and ensure best practices and standards. Hassan asked if units will retain autonomy. Long stated that aims to bring all bylaws into agreement and that metrics of excellence at college-level needs to remain abstract to capture the diverse disciplines.

Long thanked the CAC for their Service.

Frey nominated himself to serve as Council Chair. Keune moved to support the nomination. Dotson seconded. His nomination was approved unanimously.

Keune nominated himself as Secretary. Frey moved to support the nomination. Dotson seconded. His nomination was approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Ann Folino White, covering the meeting up to the point of Folino White’s departure.

Review for approval of Draft Minutes offered from meeting of April 7, 2016 was postponed until the next CAC meeting to allow time for those Minutes to be compiled and forwarded to CAC members for review.

In light of CAC having received only one nomination for Academic Specialist to the College Inclusive Practices Committee, Hassan moved to vote. Ryu seconded. Hassan moved to approve the nomination Alissa Cohen (ELC) to this position. Dotson seconded, and the committee voted unanimously in favor.

Following requests by multiple CAC members for more information on the positions before voting on replacement members, Frey obtained descriptions of the University Council/Faculty Senate, University Committee on Undergraduate Education, and the University Committee on Graduate Education. Ryu

moved to vote on the three replacement positions at once, by ballot. Dotson seconded, and CAC members unanimously approved.

Discussion

Hassan described his past experience serving on the University Council/Faculty Senate, to clarify the role to be filled by the replacement for Camelia Suleiman (L&L). Hassan stated that most activities pertained to hearing reports on various programs, but discussion could be contentious when there was the rare discussion of dissolving a program. Dotson stated that these duties seemed like they could be heavy for an assistant professor. Hassan stated that he did not find it too heavy, but CAC should select someone who was seen as most ready to shoulder the responsibility of representing CAL's interests at the meetings.

CAC members reviewed the CVs of the nominations for the University Committee on Graduate Studies (to replace Jyotsna Singh, ENG) and the University Committee on Undergraduate Studies (to replace Gary Hoppenstand, WRAC) with less discussion. Hassan clarified that the Undergraduate Education committee deals mainly with the addition and deletion of majors and minors, changes in the overall curriculum, and general education requirements.

CAC members cast their votes by ballot. Frey collected the ballots and counted them with Melissa Staub. Frey announced the following result of the votes:

University Council/Faculty Senate representative: Laura Cloud (AAHD)
University Committee on Undergraduate Education: Sheng-Mei Ma (ENG)
University Committee on Graduate Studies: Christian Lotz (PHIL)

Dotson moved to adjourn. Hassan seconded, and CAC members approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Jon Keune, covering the meeting after the point of Folino White's departure.