

**Advisory Council Minutes  
College of Arts & Letters  
February 1, 2018  
115 International Center  
OPEN MEETING FOR CAL FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS**

**Present:** Danielle DeVoss (WRAC); Jon Frey (AAHD); David Godden (PHL); Karen Kangas-Preston (THR); Suzanne Wagner (L&L); Lauren Brentnell (Grad, WRAC); Marshall Olds for Scott Boehm (RCS); Salah Hassan (ENG), Jon Keune (REL), Cassie Feith (UGRAD).

For CAL: Christopher Long (DEAN); Bill Hart-Davidson; Sonja Fritzsche.

CAL faculty and students present: Nancy Bunge, Joy Coates, Laura Cloud, Amy DeRogatis, Kirk Domer, Hailey Goodwin, Nicola Imbrascio, Erin Kempers, Richard Manderfield, Suzanne Manuel, Ellen Moll, Joyce Meier, Malea Powell, Rocio Quispe-Agnoli, Scott Schopieray, Kate Sonka, Rebecca Tegtmeyer, Alyse VanAcker, Xhercis Méndez, Fred Rauscher, Amy Lampe, Janet Hershberger, Beth Judge, Quinn Moreno, Laura Essig, Dan Meier, Deb Mansel, Penny Shanks, Dawn Lehman, Ashley Hewlett.

**Guest from Faculty Senate:** Rocio Quispe-Agnoli; Joyce Meier; Nancy Bunge; Rebecca Tegtmeyer; Laura Cloud.

**Guest from COGS:** Garrett Colón

**Call to order 3:21pm,** Suzanne Wagner, Chair

**Agenda:**

- Remarks from CAC Chair, Suzanne Wagner
- remarks from Dean Long, CAL Dean
- remarks from COGS rep: Garrett Colon,
- remarks from Faculty Senate rep: Rocio Quispe-Agnoli;
- Open discussion

**Chair Wagner Comments:** Thanks to all for coming on short notice; the CAC is here to advise the dean and bring thoughts and concerns from CAL to the Dean; today's meeting is for direct conversation; to advise on matters concerning the welfare of the college—it is time for this today;

**Dean Long comments:** last week the faculty asked for a vote of no confidence of the President; all Deans of University met to talk together for the first time; President Simon resigned before the Deans voted; the Board of Trustees asked to meet with the Deans to consult on acting president; Deans met Sunday afternoon and drafted the letter that has been shared broadly; Deans met with Board of Trustees—three deans were chosen to speak and read parts of the letter; second letter, also shared widely, was drafted after the Board of Trustees meeting;

Dean Long is committed to living out the principles laid out in the letter from the Deans; we need to take a serious look at ourselves and what happens when things break down; have to see how our failures contributed to broader failures;

**Garrett Colon, COGS rep:** Colon shared COGS president, Ashley Fuente's, letter against the appointment of John Engler as interim MSU president; want to offer spaces for grads across college to heal; encourage us all to make commitments actionable and not just words;

**Rocio Quispe-Agnoli, Faculty senate rep:** presented a timeline of what has happened from Faculty Senate perspective:

- on January 23 at the University Council meeting two James Madison faculty made a motion for vote of no confidence against president Simon; motion did not continue to a vote since the motion was not on the agenda;
- on January 24 the question was put to academic congress to approve putting the motion into faculty senate for the next meeting; President Simon resigned before the vote could go out;
- on January 29 the university council received a call for agenda items for the February 13 meeting of the Steering Committee to set agenda for next Faculty Senate meeting;
- on January 30 we all got the letter from the Steering Committee to faculty stating that their recommendations for an interim hire were not followed and expressing disappointment at hiring of John Engler and the process and lack of consultation that were followed;
- on January 31 a ballot was sent through Qualtrics to the Academic Congress to determine if the Steering Committee should put into the agenda of Faculty Senate a vote of no confidence of the Board of Trustees; if it passes Academic Congress and Faculty Senate they will call for the resignation of the entire Board of Trustees;
  - vote open until Feb. 3; PLEASE VOTE; confirmed w/ Gary Hoppenstand that there are 2700 voting members and within 3 hours over 1000 votes had been cast—need a quorum to pass this onto faculty senate agenda;

**Open conversation:** several faculty and students used the opportunity to speak out against decisions made by the Board of Trustees and called for places and times designated for open conversation within CAL and across the University. A condensed account follows:

Q: How can we bridge the gap between students and faculty at this time?

A: Reach out to student representatives on CAC. Dean Long will get student reps across various committees together. CAL CAC is also making connections with other College CACS across the University. Instructors invited to a session on how they can sensitively talk about the current situation with their students (Wed Feb 7, Wells B-122, 11:15am – 12:30pm. We must make sure that students always know when they are invited to events/conversations, make them feel welcome, send the message in multiple ways. There will be more CAC-facilitated events for discussion, including small group discussion.

Q: What will the deans do, now that it's clear the Board of Trustees ignored their recommendations re hiring an interim president?

A: The deans are going to get together as soon as they can to determine this. They are in communication online via Teams. The failure to listen to the Deans is symptomatic of how the larger institutional structure has been failing for a long time.

Q: Where is the University heading if the Board of Trustees does step down?

A: Faculty Senate is aware that there cannot be a void. Time would be needed to run elections and replace the board. But we (MSU) do not control this process. So time is also needed to look hard at

faculty governance here and determine what can/should change. We need a faculty statement. But it's important to also remind parents, students, prospectives that we are all committed to continuing with our educational mission while this is all happening. We will still teach, we will still learn, we will still build knowledge.

Further summary:

- There were calls to act: Sign letters that are circulating, vote if you can, attend Trustee town halls, create a committee for creating contingency plans if we don't have a Board. Bring together, quickly, people who have the relevant talents and commitment to create a longterm vision of a university that is survivor-centered.
- Some pointed out that the scope of sexual assault and abuse of power goes beyond MSU. We happen to be in the spotlight, but what can we learn from other institutions and survivors, and how can we be a model to others for creating change?
- In line with this, there was strong feeling that we must not look away from this moment. We must look at our own failures, and ask: Who are we responsible to and for? More than salvaging the reputation of the University, we cannot forget the survivors, or examine our own behaviors for the ways in which we have enabled exploitation of all kinds.
- Communication was mentioned frequently, with respect to, inter alia: (i) forming stronger horizontal networks (across Deans, across CACs, across CAL faculty/students/staff etc) to counteract powerful vertical hierarchies; (ii) providing counternarratives to official University messages; (iii) making everyone feel that they have access to the same information, that it is not controlled by elites; (iv) increasing the rapidity of information circulation; (v) improving the reporting of abuse process, especially for individuals of color; (vi) cultivating more conversations.

Meeting Adjourned 5:13pm