

Faculty Council
Minutes for meeting on 21 April, 2016

In attendance: Jonathan Martin, Luis Alvarez-Castro, Theresa Antes, Betty Smocovitis, Charles Peek, Hai Chang, Tram Dihn, Valeria Kleiman, Nina Caputo

Dean Richardson

Report on Dean's Medal of Excellence, awarded to graduates who achieved significant breadth in their course work, including science, humanities, and experiential learning.

Strategic Plan: 17 March draft is complete, but still needs to be modified to make it an actionable plan. At present, it includes many commendable goals and objective – many of which are already in place or are under development.

Publication of a revised plan for implementation in the college should be complete in July for publication to chairs at chairs' retreat. University-wide plan is also not entirely complete, but it will likely be published in the Fall.

Budget: A new budget model has been unveiled and it will replace RCM with the new fiscal year. The budget for the coming academic year is essentially flat, but the college will not be held accountable for cuts/debts that arose as a consequence of RCM. The new model allows opportunity for growth in college funding based on overall student credit hours accrued in a year.

- Antes raised the difficulties departments face in finding classrooms to hold their classes. Dean Richardson suggested that Assoc. Dean Pharies be alerted with concrete examples of the problem.

Agenda Items

T&P Committee issue: The membership of the committee is comprised of 3 representatives from each division, 2 elected and 1 appointed in each; all serve 3 year terms. As a result of faculty leaves and departures, this rhythm as been upset. Assoc. Dean Waylen proposes that the 2018-19 appointed member in the Humanities serve a 2-year term to reestablish the proper rotation (the elected members' terms will be unchanged).

- Smocovitis pointed to the rigidity of maintaining CLAS divisions and asked that the 2016-17 Faculty Council engage in an extended discussion of this issue, especially as it impacts the composition of the committee and of representation of faculty who hold cross appointments. She suggested that this interdisciplinarity be made discussion point for the fall semester.

Smocovitis called the question on the recommendation for realigning the T&P committee members' terms; Antes moved to approve, Martin seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Evaluation of Chairs and Directors

Administration of evaluations: Martin moved that it should be administered by CLAS, Antes seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Council recommends that the name of the person being evaluated be added to the header on the opening page and that an email introducing and explaining the instrument go out to the faculty in advance of the survey and the dean present it to the faculty at the chairs' retreat. The council also decided that the evaluation survey be distributed in early November and that it remain open until Thanksgiving, with timely reminders in between. The Faculty Council or a Council subcommittee will solicit questions from the chairs in September, present them to the CLAS administrator overseeing the evaluations, and then assure that the results of the evaluation be distributed to the dean and to the chairs. A memo on this will be generated in Fall, 2016 and kept on record for future Faculty Councils.

Unanimous thanks to Valeria for her efficient term as chair.
Meeting adjourned, 11:40 am.